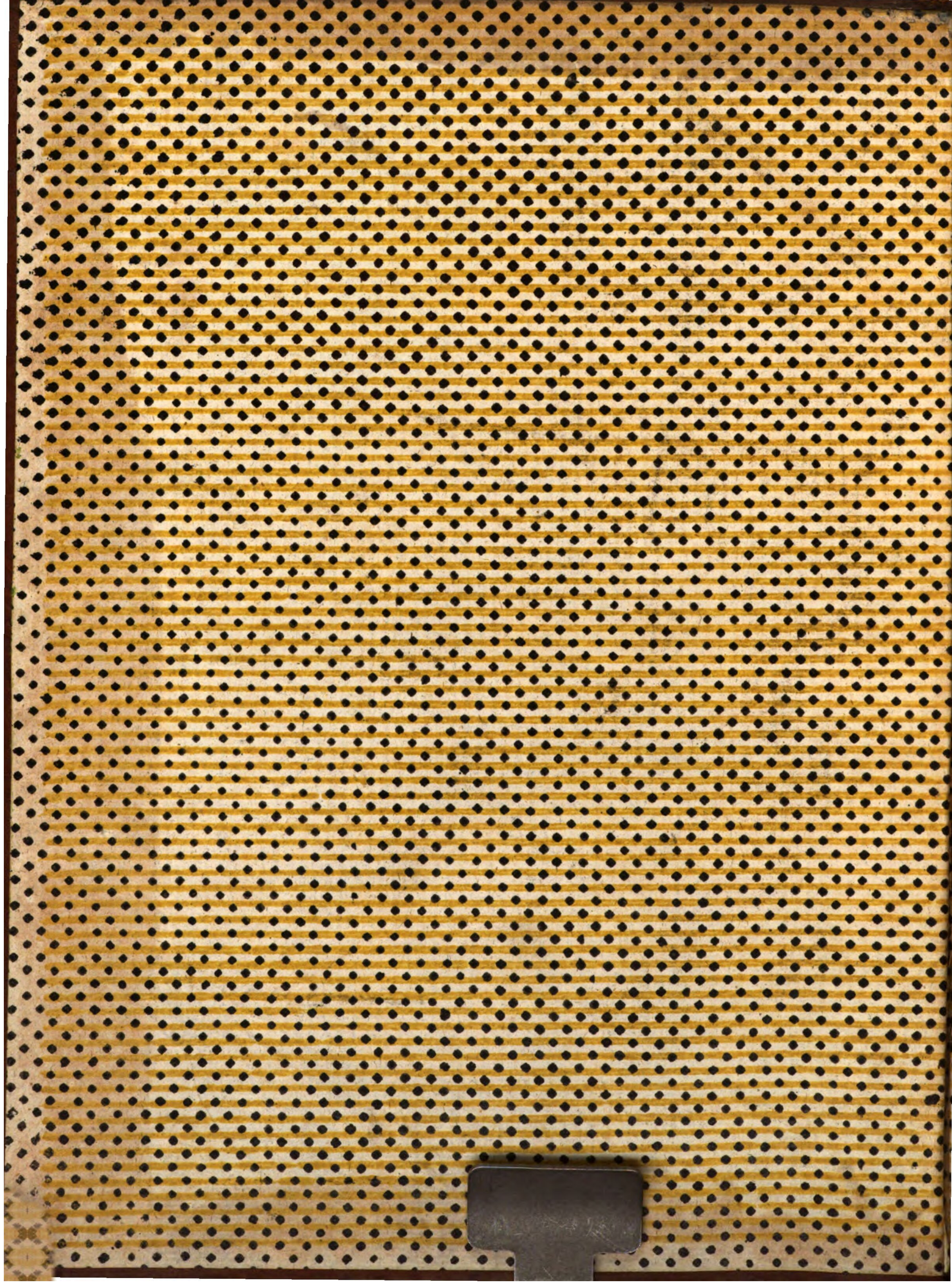
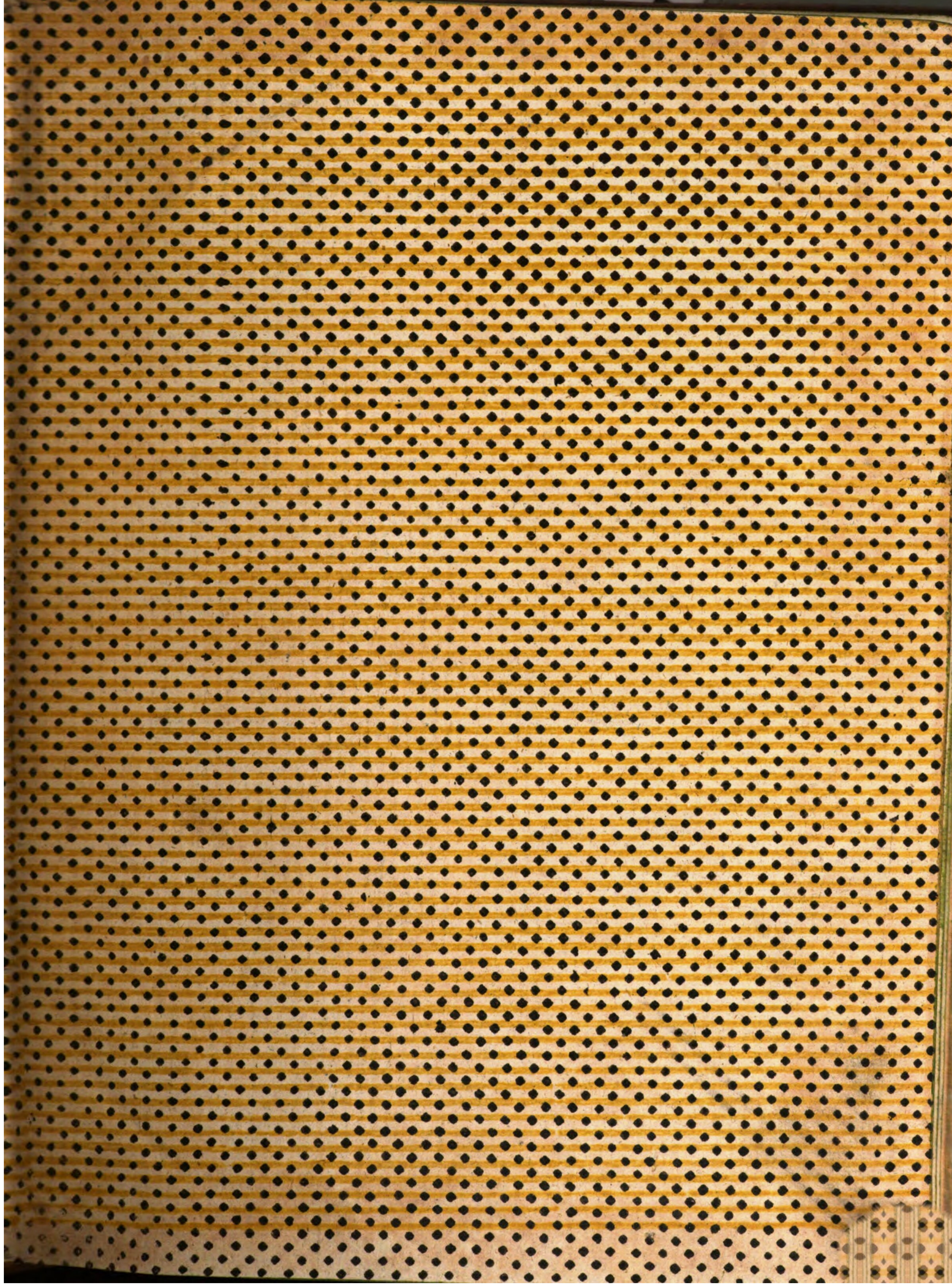








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AN
HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION
OF THE
ORIGIN OF COMMERCE,
FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

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HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION
OF THE
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FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS.
CONTAINING
AN HISTORY
OF THE
GREAT COMMERCIAL INTERESTS
OF THE
BRITISH EMPIRE.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
AN INTRODUCTION,
EXHIBITING
A VIEW OF THE ANCIENT AND MODERN STATE OF EUROPE;
AND OF THE
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL COMMERCE, SHIPPING, MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, &c.
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN AND IRELAND;
AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE LANDED INTEREST.
WITH
TWO APPENDICES,
THE ONE CONTAINING
THE MODERN POLITICO-COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE;
AND THE OTHER,
AN ACCOUNT OF SOME NEW MANUFACTURES, USEFUL INVENTIONS,
AND RECENT COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS.
CAREFULLY REVISED, CORRECTED, AND CONTINUED TO THE PRESENT TIME.

VOL. IV.

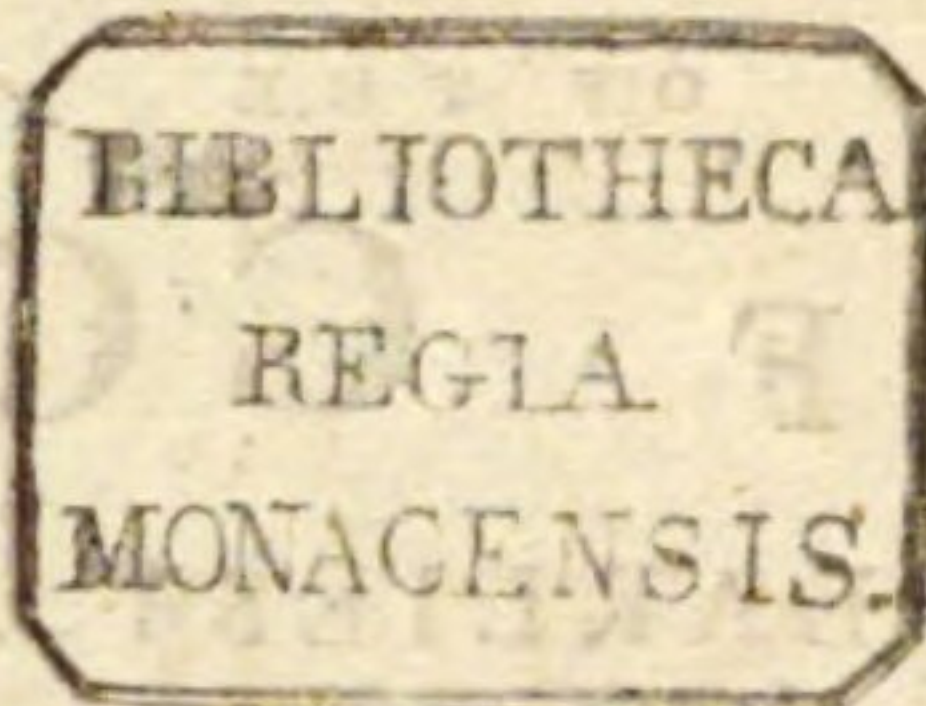
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MDCCLXXXIX.



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VOL. IV.
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THE Publisher thinks it necessary to apologize for the omission of so many respectable names, who have honoured this Work with their patronage. This, however, arises from his not being sufficiently acquainted with the wishes of those Gentlemen on this head; since, however highly he might be gratified by this flattering mark of approbation, he is too sensible of the obligations already conferred, to urge any further extension of them.

P R E F A C E.

TH E History of Commerce, by Mr. Anderson, being out of print, it was proposed to give a corrected edition of that excellent work, and to render it complete by a continuation to the present period. The proposal met with the most flattering encouragement, and by the exertion of great labour, and the application of great expence, we have at length brought it to a conclusion, as we trust, to the honour of the LOGOGRAPHIC PRESS*.

* MR. WALTER cannot here omit suggesting to the Public a few observations on his improved mode of printing LOGOGRAPHICALLY.

In all projects for the general benefit, the individual, who conceives that the trade in which he is engaged diminishes in its emoluments from any improvement which another may produce in it, is too much disposed to become its enemy; and, perhaps, the interest of individuals never exerted itself with more inveteracy than has been experienced by Mr. WALTER from many concerned in the trade into which he had entered.

The invention which he brought forward, promised to be of essential service to the Public, by expediting the process and lessening the expence of printing: Dr. FRANKLIN sanctioned it with his approbation, and Sir JOSEPH BANKS encouraged him with the most decided and animated opinion of the great advantages which would arise to Literature from the LOGOGRAPHIC PRESS: nevertheless, Mr. WALTER was left to struggle with the interest of some, and the prejudice of others, and though he was honoured by the protection of several persons of high rank, it happened in his predicament, as it generally happens in predicaments of a similar nature, that his foes were more active than his friends, and he still continued to struggle with every difficulty that could arise from a very determined opposition to, and the most illiberal misrepresentations of the LOGOGRAPHIC IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. WALTER, however, has at length triumphed over the falsehood and malignity of his opponents; LOGOGRAPHIC PRINTING, after having produced such a Work as this, which he now presents to the Public, with many excellent publications that he has already printed, can no longer be considered as an idle speculation: on the contrary, it is proved to be a practical improvement, that promises, under a due encouragement, to produce a great national benefit. To advance it to the perfection of which it is capable, Mr. WALTER engages to employ his utmost exertions, and he takes the liberty of expressing his confidence, that he shall not be disappointed in the enjoyment of that public favour which now promises to reward his labours.

The form of the Work was already before us;—the first edition of it had been so much approved, that it would have argued no small degree of presumption if we had deviated from it: on the contrary, we have adhered closely to the apparent intention of the original Author, and, except in the article of expression, to which he seems to have paid too little regard, we have endeavoured to adopt and arrange our materials as he himself would have done, had he lived to have brought his history down to the time in which we conclude it.

The period which has been the object of our labours, is among the most interesting and important that can be found in the annals of the British Empire; and large as the volume is which we have filled in the relation, it will, we fear, be condemned rather for the compression than the superabundance of its contents. To have brought every commercial arrangement into detail, every commercial event into narration, and every commercial subject into discussion, would have been to write a library instead of a volume. The excellent treatises on commerce which have been written by Mr. CHALMERS, as well as others that manifest in what manner the leisure hours of Lord SHEFFIELD are employed, evidently prove, that distinct commercial subjects, when treated at large, will occupy considerable volumes. Some articles, however, we have ventured to amplify, while others receive nothing more than a bare statement, and many are compressed into partial relation. In making such an arrangement, we have acted to the best of our own judgment, aided by the opinions of those who were well qualified to decide upon our doubts, and in conformity to the engagements we had made with the Public.

The

The historian of times long past, finds his materials in the records of them; and when they are delivered to his possession, or are obtained by his research, he may retire to his bower, and pursue his labours beneath the shade; the work will then depend on himself alone: but he, whose fate it is to relate the events of the day in which he lives, must write in the bustle of it. Much of his information must result from his enquiries among the living world; and, to the toil of solicitation, he has to add the doubts which interest, prejudice and indolence may cast upon the very intelligence which yields to his perseverance.

In a work of this nature, that species of information is essentially necessary, which it is not in the power of a writer to command, or money to purchase. Private individuals are not always to be found with a disposition to employ that time, which is devoted to business or relaxation, in aiding a literary work, however useful to the world; and the cautious, though, perhaps, wise policy of public office, will frequently refuse to open those channels of communication, which flow from no other source. We do not, however, offer these observations from the impulse of discontent, but as they are founded in fact. We have only stood in that predicament, in which any writer of a similar work must inevitably stand; and we are conscious that the defects which may be discovered in the following pages, as far as they depend upon labour and assiduity, could not have found a remedy in the exertions of other men.

After all, we do not hesitate to present this volume to our country as containing a mass of useful information on trade and commerce; and we are disposed to flatter ourselves, that it will not be found to disappoint reasonable expectation. That part of the history which is written by Mr. Anderson, has deservedly acquired a place in the first rank of useful British Authors; and we trust, that the volume which is now added to it, will not disgrace the work it is intended to complete.

THE EDITORS.

AN
HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION
OF THE
ORIGIN OF COMMERCE,
FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS, &c.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY,

*Continued from the Year 1762, the Period at which Mr. ANDERSON closed
his HISTORY, down to the End of the Year 1788.*

A. D.

1763 **I**N the early part of this year, peace was concluded by the belligerent powers of Europe.— On the tenth day of February, the definitive treaty of peace was signed, and soon after ratified, between the court of Great Britain and those of France and Spain; and between the two latter crowns and that of Portugal.—On the twenty-second of March following, peace was proclaimed, with the usual solemnities, at London.

In this definitive treaty, the most material alterations from, or explanations of, the preliminary articles of peace, of the third day of November, 1762, are:—

I. That instead of the fifth article of the preliminaries, relating to Dunkirk, the thirteenth article of the definitive treaty stipulates, “That Dunkirk shall be put into the state fixed by the last treaty of Aix la Chapelle, and by former treaties. The *Cunette** shall be destroyed immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty, as well as the forts and batteries which defend the entrance on the side of the sea; and provision shall be made at the same time for the wholesomeness of the air, and for the health of the inhabitants, by some other means, to the satisfaction of the King of Great Britain.”

* A *Cunette*, sometimes called a *Cuvette*, is generally described to be a deep trench, (mostly a wet one) dug along the bottom of a broader or larger dry ditch, for rendering the approach to the place more difficult.

A. D.

1763

II. That, instead of the tenth preliminary, the eleventh article of the definitive treaty stipulates, "That Great Britain shall restore to France, in the condition they now are in, the different factories (in the preliminary article called comptoirs) which that crown possessed, as well on the coast of Coromandel and Orixá, as on that of Malabar, as also in Bengal, at the beginning of the year 1749: and France renounces all pretensions to the acquisitions she had made on the coast of Coromandel and Orixá;" (*i. e.* Fort St. David, and its dependencies) "And his most Christian Majesty shall restore, on his part, all that he may have conquered from Great Britain in the East Indies during the present war; and will expressly cause Nattal and Tapanouly," *i. e.* Bencoolen, &c. "in the island of Sumatra, to be restored. And he further engages, not to erect fortifications, or to keep troops in any parts of the dominions of the Subah" commonly called the Nabob, "of Bengal. And, in order to preserve future peace on the coast of Coromandel and Orixá, the English and French shall acknowledge Mahomet Ally Khan for lawful Nabob of the Carnatic, and Salabat Jing for lawful Subah of the Decan; and both parties shall renounce all demands and pretensions of satisfaction with which they might charge each other, or their Indian allies, for the depredations or pillage committed on either side during the war."

To this article, his Grace the Duke of Bedford subjoined a declaration, importing "That, for the preventing of all subject of dispute, on account of the limits of the territories of the Subah of Bengal, as well as of the coast of Coromandel and Orixá, the said territories of the Subah of Bengal, shall be reputed to extend only as far as the Yanaon exclusively; and that the Yanaon shall be considered as included in the northern part of the coast of Coromandel and Orixá."

III. Instead of the fourth article of the preliminaries, by which the French King obliges himself, *on his royal word only*, not to fortify the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, that King, by the sixth article of the definitive treaty, "absolutely engages not to fortify those islands, &c. as in the said preliminary article."

IV. Instead of the words of the nineteenth preliminary article, by which "his Catholic Majesty cedes and guarantees to his Britannic Majesty all that Spain possesses on the continent of North America, to the east or to the south-east of the river Mississippi;" by the twentieth article of the definitive treaty, "his Catholic Majesty cedes and guarantees, in full right, to his Britannic Majesty, Florida, with the fort St. Augustine, and the bay of Pensacola; as well as all that Spain possesses on the continent of North America, to the east, or to the south-east of the river Mississippi; and, in general, every thing that depends on the said countries and lands, with the sovereignty, property, and possession, and all rights acquired by treaties, or otherwise, which the Catholic King and the crown of Spain have had, till now, over the said countries, &c. in the most ample manner and form, &c."

V. Instead of the latter part of the ninth article of the preliminaries, by which "France cedes, in full right, and guarantees to the King of Great Britain, Senegal;" in the tenth article of the definitive treaty it is thus expressed:—"His most Christian Majesty cedes, in full right, and guarantees to the King of Great Britain, the river Senegal, with the forts and factories of St. Louis, Podor, and Galam; and with all the rights and dependencies of the said river Senegal." Which forts and territories were thought so important by the House of Commons, that, on the thirtieth of the said month of March, they passed a vote of credit for his Majesty to expend as far as seven thousand pounds, for repairing and improving the same.

A. D.

1763

With regard to Asia, the eleventh article of the definitive treaty sufficiently demonstrates the great superiority we obtained by it in the East Indies, as it necessarily produced a great increase of our Company's commerce thither, and a proportionable augmentation of the customs, as well as of our national wealth, and of the sinking fund.

II. In Africa, our possession of the French settlements on the river Senegal, afforded us the profitable command of that most useful article gum Senegal, so indispensably necessary for the perfecting of many of our own manufactures: and, by the vast enlargement of our continental as well as insular dominions in America, the demand for negro slaves from that and other parts of the African coast, greatly increased, and therewith that of our shipping and mariners; and also a proportionable, or perhaps greater augmentation of our outward-bound cargoes, consisting of our own various manufactures, for the purchase of those slaves, &c.

III. With regard to the new acquisitions, both from France and Spain, on the continent of North America, considered either in a political or commercial view, they afforded a prospect of adding, in a pre-eminent degree, to the national prosperity.

IV. By the extensive province of Florida, which was then yielded to us by Spain, and by the further addition of almost the only valuable part of Louisiana, our empire in America was not only rendered vastly more extensive, but likewise extremely secure, down from our province of Georgia southward, to the Cape of Florida; and thence turning westward, along the great gulph or bay of Mexico, up to the mouth of the river Mississippi; all which has no other frontier but the ocean: an extreme advantage to a commercial nation. But this was not all the benefit arising from such concession: for, by the advantage of the bay and harbour of Pensacola, &c. we were enabled, in time of war, to command the neighbouring seas and coasts belonging to those two nations; with other advantages, which are now unnecessary to be mentioned.

V. By our treaty with Spain, we effectually established our before disputed right to the profitable benefit of our unlimitedly cutting of logwood on the shores of Campeachy; where we were also empowered to have habitations for our people, and store-houses for our goods; where also, in case of any future rupture, it would always be in our power to form a more effectual establishment. By this important concession, a great bone of contention, of near one hundred years standing, was also most fortunately abolished.

VI. Even with respect to the West India islands, we may observe, that although, in order to get rid of our troublesome neighbours on the American continent, and to obtain of them many other important advantages, in different parts of the world, it was judged expedient to restore the sugar islands we had conquered, together with the neutral one of St. Lucia, we still acquired, by the ninth article of the definitive treaty, the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, and likewise the neutral isles of St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago; with the additional and permanent benefit of for ever annihilating the name or appellation of any neutral isle in those seas; whereby each nation's possessions and property there are now distinctly ascertained, and a final period put to so long a plea for altercation.

Lastly, the effectual demolition of the impregnable part of the sea-port of Dunkirk was now fully executed; not merely because so stipulated, as it had been thrice before, but because we were in possession of what we never before effectually had,—a sure pledge of its being duly performed.

These were, without doubt, most substantial and important objects:—But that they were adequate to the advantages we had gained during the course of the war, was an opinion by no

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1763 means unanimous throughout the kingdom; and there were not wanting persons of the first talents, and the greatest name, who decried this peace, as disgraceful to a people, victorious in every part of the globe; and who, it was asserted, possessed resources to continue the career of success, till they had brought their enemies to their feet. But we must prefer narrative to speculation;—it is our office to relate things as they happen, and not detail opinions as they arise; more particularly at a period when the established freedom of the press, and the great increase of knowledge, bring every public question into voluminous discussion. This work would err from its design, if we were to do more than state those facts which are appropriate to it, and recite those measures which have proceeded from the mind of government: to review the deliberations that produced them is not our province;—it is not for us to reason,—but to relate.

To clear away the incumbrances of the late war, supplies were to be raised, and, of course, taxes to be imposed. For these purposes it was proposed by government,

First, To take two millions from the sinking fund.

Secondly, To strike one million eight hundred thousand pounds in Exchequer bills.

Thirdly, To borrow two millions eight hundred thousand pounds on annuities: and,

Fourthly, To form two lotteries, for three hundred and fifty thousand pounds each.

To pay the interest on these loans, which, amounted, in the whole, to seven millions three hundred thousand pounds, an additional duty, of eight pounds per tun, was laid upon all wines of the growth of France, and four pounds per tun on all others.

This part of the plan of ways and means was unexceptionable; but another duty was added, which furnished the opponents of government with a subject of popular outcry, and the successful means of influencing the whole nation: this was a duty of four shillings per hogshead to be laid on cyder, and to be subject, with some qualifications, to all the laws of excise. As this act became an object of great popular frenzy and tumult, and seemed to interest the passions of the people in general at the time it was agitated and passed, we shall insert a general abstract of it.

“ That from and after the thirty-first day of March, 1763, the following additional duties shall take place, viz.

“ On French wine and vinegar imported, eight pounds per tun, and all other wines and vinegar imported four pounds per tun; to be collected, levied, and paid, as expressed in the act of James II. or in any other act by which the duties thereby granted are made perpetual.

“ Damaged and unmerchantable wines shall be exempted from these additional duties.

“ The said duties shall be under the management of the Commissioners of the Customs, and shall be paid over weekly by the Receiver-General into the Exchequer, apart from all other monies, and shall be entered accordingly in proper books to be provided there for that purpose.

“ No allowance shall be made for leakage, but upon wines imported directly from the country or place of their growth, &c. Madeira wines from the British plantations in America excepted.

“ From and after the fifth of July, 1763, an additional duty shall be laid on all cyder and perry: viz. on all cyder and perry imported, forty shillings per tun; and upon all cyder

“ and perry made within Great Britain, four shillings per hogshead, to be paid by the maker.

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“ The duties upon cyder and perry made in England, to be under the receipt and management of the commissioners and officers of excise there, and those in Scotland under like officers there. The commissioners shall appoint a sufficient number of officers, and the duties shall be paid into the Exchequer apart from all other monies.

“ The makers of cyder and perry, not being compounders, shall enter their names, and the mills, presses or other utensils, store houses and other places to be made use of, at the next office of excise, ten days before they begin to work, under the penalty of twenty-five pounds for using any unentered place.

“ The officers of excise, upon request made, shall have free access, in the day time, to all places entered or made use of for making or keeping perry or cyder, and shall gauge and report the contents to the commissioners, leaving a copy for the maker. The duties shall be paid according thereto, within six weeks from making such charge; and the usual allowances shall be made in respect thereof.

“ Persons intending to sell or remove any cyder or perry in their possession made before the fifth of July, 1763, shall send a signed particular thereof to the next office of excise, ten days before the said fifth of July, that the officer may take an account thereof, and grant certificates occasionally for the removal of a like quantity without charging the duty, &c.

“ No cyder or perry exceeding six gallons shall be removed, &c. without a certificate, on forfeiture thereof, with the package. Officers of the excise may seize the same. A time shall be limited, for which the certificate shall be in force.

“ Persons making cyder or perry to be consumed in their own private families only, shall be admitted to compound for the duties, they giving in a list of the number in family, and paying at the rate of five shillings per head per annum. This composition to be renewed annually and the money paid down at the same time. The houses, &c. of persons who shall thus compound, shall be exempted from survey or search: but, upon increase of the family, a new list shall be given in, and five-pence per month, per head, shall be paid for the additional number, during the subsisting unexpired term of the year. Compounders neglecting to deliver in such lists, and to pay their composition money, shall be charged with the duty, and become liable to a survey. Persons delivering false or defective lists, shall forfeit twenty pounds.

“ Children under eight years of age shall not be inserted in the lists. Compounders may sell, dispose of, or remove any cyder or perry more than sufficient for their own use, giving two days notice to the proper officer, who shall attend, and take an account thereof, and charge the duties and report the same to the excise office, leaving a copy with the compounder. Such cyder or perry shall not be afterwards removed without a certificate. Compounders being guilty of any fraud, in selling, exchanging, or delivering out cyder or perry, shall forfeit twenty pounds.

“ No compounder shall let out or lend his mill or other utensils for making cyder or perry, without giving three days previous notice to the proper officer to attend and charge the duties; unless the cyder or perry be the property of another compounder, or of some other person not liable to the duty; and no part of it shall be removed without a certificate, under a penalty of ten pounds.

“ Persons using their own mills, &c. or procuring cyder or perry to be made at the mills, &c. of any other person, shall be deemed makers.

“ Compounders for malt shall not be liable to compound or pay duties for cyder or perry, to be made and consumed in their own families, unless they shall sell or otherwise dispose of any

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1763 part thereof; in which case, they shall comply with the directions given with respect to compounders in like circumstances.

“ Occupiers of tenements not rated above forty shillings per annum to the land tax, and not making more than four hogsheds of cyder and perry in the whole year, shall be exempted from duties or compounding.

“ These new duties on cyder and perry shall be drawn back on exportation; and upon distillation thereof into low wines and spirits; and upon the same being made into vinegar, and charged with duties as such.

“ The penalty of opposing an officer in the execution of his office, or of rescuing or staying any cyder or perry after any seizure thereof, shall be fifty pounds, for every such offence. Informations for offences against this act by the makers of cyder or perry, shall be laid within three months after being committed; and notice thereof shall be given them.

“ Persons aggrieved by the judgment of any justice of the peace touching the duties or penalties, may appeal to the quarter sessions, and the determination of the said court shall be final.

“ Appellants shall give notice to the other parties, and the court shall award costs as they see fit, to be levied by distraint.

“ For want of sufficient time intervening, an appeal may be made to the second quarter sessions.

“ A re-hearing shall be had of the merits of the case upon appeals; and defects of form in the original proceedings may be rectified by the court.

“ All powers, rules, methods, penalties and clauses in act xii. Car. II. or in any other act relating to the revenue of excise, where not altered by this act, shall be put into execution with respect to the duties on cyder and perry.

“ The penalties and forfeitures relating thereto, shall be recovered or mitigated as by the laws of excise, or in the courts at Westminster, or the court of Exchequer in Scotland, and shall be employed, half to the use of the King, and half to him that shall sue.

“ The duty on cyder and perry brought from Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, or Alderney, shall be paid by the importer before landing, on penalty of being seized and forfeited.

“ The monies arising by the respective duties granted by this act, shall be entered in proper books in the auditors office, separately from each other and from all other monies; and shall be a fund for the payment of the annuities chargeable on the principal sum of five millions borrowed on the credit of this act.”

The part of this act which related the duty on cyder and perry, with the mode of collecting it, was debated with uncommon violence in both Houses of Parliament, and a very strong protest was entered in the journals of the House of Lords against it. Nay, so general was the disapprobation of it, that many feared the revival of that spirit which was raised by a scheme of excise in the year 1733, when not only the political but personal existence of a great Minister was in imminent danger. The city of London not only instructed its representatives in Parliament, but petitioned the different branches of the legislature against it; while some of the constant friends of administration withdrew their support on this occasion. Yet we now find that many persons of great property and political talents are become converts to this mode of raising taxes, and do not hesitate to support the opinion, that an extension of the excise laws merely to objects, without enlarging the power, would produce a great public benefit, by the augmentation it would occasion in the public revenues.

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The produce of South Carolina entered for exportation from the port of Charles-town, from the twenty-third of December 1761, the day the first vessel with rice, of crop 1761, was cleared out, to the first of September 1762, both days inclusive.

Rice,	—	—	—	63,288 barrels.
Indigo,	—	—	—	249,000 pounds weight.
Staves,	—	—	—	157,880 —
Shingles,	—	—	—	674,740 —
Corn,	—	—	—	23,194 bushels.
Peas,	—	—	—	3,980 barrels.
Butter,	—	—	—	8 kegs.
Deer skins,	—	—	—	331 hogheads.
—	—	—	—	12 casks.
—	—	—	—	215 bundles.
—	—	—	—	1,043 loose.
Pitch,	—	—	—	3,110 barrels.
Tar,	—	—	—	1,119 —
Tobacco,	—	—	—	14 hogheads.
Rosin,	—	—	—	19 barrels.
Tanned leather,	—	—	—	2,693 fides.
Tallow,	—	—	—	32 barrels.
Fish,	—	—	—	41 —
Timber, &c.	—	—	—	103,293 feet.
Oranges,	—	—	—	4 barrels.
Soap,	—	—	—	100 boxes.
Potatoes,	—	—	—	20 bushels.
Laths,	—	—	—	3,500
Turpentine,	—	—	—	751 barrels.
Beef	—	—	—	11 —
Bacon,	—	—	—	1,648 pounds weight.
Candles, myrtle wax,	—	—	—	14 boxes.
Oats,	—	—	—	388 bushels.
Hoops,	—	—	—	14,500
Reeds,	—	—	—	400
Handspikes,	—	—	—	360
Furs,	—	—	—	1 hoghead.
—	—	—	—	1 bundle.
—	—	—	—	2 barrels.
Pink root,	—	—	—	1 cask.
Bees wax,	—	—	—	6 —
Hams,	—	—	—	5 barrels.

The following is a list of the prize goods taken at the Havannah :

Sugar,	—	—	—	5,841 chests.
Cocoa,	—	—	—	3,384 serons.
—	—	—	—	3 casks.
Jesuits bark,	—	—	—	122 serons.

Hides

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Hide in the hair,	—	—	—	8,363
Tanned hides,	—	—	—	3,900
Tobacco,	—	—	—	475 bales.
Snuff,	—	—	—	4,876 serons.
Logwood,	—	—	—	59,213 pieces.
Fustick,	—	—	—	2,003 —
Timber,	—	—	—	78 —
Cedar planks,	—	—	—	8
Cochineal,	—	—	—	7 serons.
Tortoifeshell,	—	—	—	2 casks.

Of which, and the rest of the plunder, the first distribution amounted to five hundred and sixteen thousand one hundred and eighty-five pounds three shillings.

It appears by the Georgia Gazette, that from the fifth of January 1762, to the fifth of January 1763, the exports of that province were,

Rice,	—	—	—	—	7,440 barrels.
—	—	—	—	—	119 half barrels.
Indigo,	—	—	—	—	9,633 pounds weight.
Deer skins,	—	—	—	—	96 hogheads.
—	—	—	—	—	832 bundles.
Beaver skins,	—	—	—	—	13 bundles.
Pine timber,	—	—	—	—	417,449 feet.
Pork,	—	—	—	—	292 barrels.
Shingles,	—	—	—	—	688,045
Staves and heading,	—	—	—	—	359,002
Beef,	—	—	—	—	38 barrels.
Indian corn,	—	—	—	—	1,250 bushels.
Rough rice,	—	—	—	—	776 —
Tar,	—	—	—	—	246 barrels.
Tanned leather,	—	—	—	—	1,602 fides.
Hoops,	—	—	—	—	10,500
Handspikes,	—	—	—	—	1,050
Bars,	—	—	—	—	2,033

In the summer of this year, a very uncommon number of bankruptcies took place at Amsterdam, Hamburg, and several other principal towns in Germany. They began at Amsterdam the latter end of July, by the failure of two brothers of the name of Neuville, for between three and four hundred thousand pounds; and that of a Jew for a very considerable sum. These two bankruptcies occasioned, or at least hastened a stoppage of payment, by no less than eighteen houses in that city: they were followed by a still greater number of failures at Hamburg and other places, which gave such a blow to private credit, as almost wholly to interrupt, for some time, the course of commercial transactions. But the Lombard houses at Amsterdam and Hamburg stood forward on the occasion, and, by advancing large sums of ready money to such as could give a proper security, restored credit to its former functions, and liberated commerce from the oppressions beneath which it had struggled.

On this occasion several merchants, on shewing their books to persons appointed to examine them, were protected from arrests by the magistrates: an exercise of power which had the public

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1763 public interest for its object, and should be adopted, both as politic and humane, by the legislature of every commercial country.

Various were the conjectures concerning the causes of these alarming failures. But they were chiefly attributed to the large sums of money left unpaid by the English and French armies, and to the incapacity or indisposition of several of the German Princes, to call in the base money which they had found themselves obliged to issue, and had got into a very extensive circulation during the course of the war.

The marine society, with that truly patriotic spirit which has ever animated its exertions, not only received all those boys, under sixteen years of age, which it had sent to sea, who thought proper, on being discharged from the King's service, to apply to them for assistance, but even invited them to make application to their protection and assistance. Of such the society put out,

To fishermen,	—	—	—	—	—	15
To mechanic trades,	—	—	—	—	—	71
To manufacturers,	—	—	—	—	—	17
To public houses,	—	—	—	—	—	6
To the merchants service,	—	—	—	—	—	29
To the King's sea officers, who engaged to keep them for three years,						80
Sent home to their friends in Scotland and Ireland,						9
Sent home to their friends in England,						20
To Agriculture,	—	—	—	—	—	1
To watermen and lightermen,	—	—	—	—	—	9
Affisted to procure masters for themselves,						17
Cloathed and provided for themselves,						21
Total,						295

The Dublin society, inspired also by a similar zeal for the public good, proposed to the first hundred soldiers or sailors who served his Majesty out of Great Britain or Ireland, and being honourably discharged from the service, should take leases of lives of any lands in the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, not less than five or more than twenty acres, in the year 1763, and hold the same one year from their taking possession of the said lands, on producing a certificate of their industry, and being likely to continue, from the clergyman of the parish or two neighbouring justices of the peace, five pounds each.

And to the first ten landlords of the provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, who should let such farms to such tenants as above, not less than five farms by each landlord, a gold medal.

The trustees also for the forfeited estates in Scotland, were not backward in offering the same patriotic encouragement.

They wished to reward those men, who had planted the British laurel in every quarter of the globe, by affording them a comfortable retreat after all their toils, and to continue their services to their country by enabling them to pursue the employments of peace.

For this most laudable purpose, they promised not only lands but materials for building and implements of cultivation, together with fishing boats, tackle, &c. and even money, to such reduced soldiers and sailors as should settle on these estates. And Sir Ludowick Grant and

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1763 Mr. Grant, of Grant, invited them to settle on their new ground in the counties of Inverness, Murray and Banff, with a promise to let them have from five to fifteen acres of land rent free for seven years, paying afterwards one shilling per acre per annum for twelve years, with timber for building, moss or peat ground for firing, and lime stone from the quarries.

The latter end of this year, judgment was pronounced at Paris against several persons who had been employed by the King of France in the government of Canada, and had been found guilty of mal-administration in the conduct of it. These respective officers, besides the sentence of banishment, whose term was varied according to the nature of their offences, were, moreover, condemned to make restitution of several sums in proportion to the frauds of which they had been found guilty; amounting in the whole to the sum of thirteen millions six hundred and sixty-five thousand livres.

Livres.

The names, employments, and fines of these officers are as follows :

The Sieur Bigot, Intendant of the Province of Canada,	—	4,500,000
The Sieur Varin, Director of the Marine at Montreal,	—	800,000
M. Bread, Comptroller of the Marine,	—	300,000
M. Cadet, Purveyor General of the Army,	—	6,000,000
M. Pennifant,	{ Commissioners under M. Cadet, 600,000 livres each, }	1,800,000
M. Maurin,		
M. Corpion,		
M. Estabe, Keeper of the Magazines,	—	30,000
M. Martel, ditto,	—	200,000
M. Laudriere, Commandant,	—	5,000
M. Dechinaux, Secretary to the Intendant Bigot,	—	30,000
Total,		13,665,000

As soon as the English merchants trading to Canada, who were largely concerned in the paper money of that colony, were informed of these fines, they made immediate application to the Secretaries of State to obtain the fulfilling his most Christian Majesty's declaration, with regard to the bills of exchange, drawn by the government of Canada on that of Old France. But, as the final determination of this business between the two courts did not take place till the year 1766, we shall defer entering further upon the subject till we come to the history of that period.

Yards.

The linen cloth stamped in Scotland for sale, from the first of November 1761, to the first of November 1762, amounted to	—	10,303,237
The same, from the first of November 1762, to the first of November 1763, amounted to,	—	12,399,656
Which quantity exceeds that of the preceding year	—	2,096,419

An account of the sums granted this year by the Irish House of Commons, for promoting the manufactures, trade and commerce of Ireland.

To John Wetherell, for preparing and framing the intended book of rates, four hundred pounds.

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For carrying on the inland navigation from Limerick to Killaloe, two thousand five hundred pounds.

For ditto, from Inishannon to Dummanway, two thousand pounds.

For ditto, from the tide water at St. Mullins, to the town of Monasterevan, four thousand pounds.

For ditto, from Kilkenny to Inistearney, one thousand five hundred pounds.

For improving Cork harbour, one thousand five hundred pounds.

For the pier of Balgriggan, one thousand five hundred pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation by making the river Lagan navigable, and for opening a passage from Loughneagh to Belfast, two thousand pounds.

For ditto, for completing a navigation for ships of one hundred tons burthen, from Fathom Point, near Newry, to Drumglass Colliery, in the county of Tyrone, four thousand pounds.

To St. Patrick's hospital, one thousand pounds.

For Dunleary pier, one thousand pounds.

For finishing an harbour at Wicklow, one thousand pounds.

For carrying on the ballast office wall, four thousand pounds.

For re-building St. John's church, Dublin, one thousand pounds.

To Messrs. Colvill, Civill and Bryan, to assist them in lessening the expence of their completing a dry dock in the city of Dublin, one thousand pounds.

To the Lying-in-Hospital, one thousand pounds.

To the widow and children of Dr. Mosse, five hundred pounds.

To the Incorporated Society, twelve thousand pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation from Dublin through the bog of Allan to the Shannon, six thousand pounds.

For carrying on a whale fishery on the north west coast of this kingdom, one thousand pounds.

For finishing St. Catherine's church, Dublin, one thousand pounds.

For enlarging the quay at Londonderry, one thousand six hundred pounds.

For carrying on the inland navigation, by making a navigable canal between the loughs Foyle and Sivilly in the county of Donegal, four thousand pounds.

For erecting a pier at Killileagh in the county of Down, six hundred pounds.

For re-building John's and Green's bridges in the city of Kilkenny, and Bennet's Thomastown and Castlecomer bridges, in the county of Kilkenny, and for repairing the bridge of Enistearney, in the said county of Kilkenny, eight thousand pounds.

To Henry Cottingham and James King to reimburse their losses, occasioned by the tumultuous proceedings of the late mobs, eight hundred pounds.

For widening the passage leading from Anglesea-street to College-green, three hundred and forty pounds.

To the city work-house, three thousand seven hundred and seventy-one pounds.

To Hugh Boyd, Esq; for his having made an harbour at Bally Castle: and for his keeping the said harbour in repair for twenty-one years, three thousand pounds.

To the Dublin Society, two thousand pounds.

To ditto, to be applied for the encouragement of such trades and manufactures, and in such manner and subject to such regulations, as shall be directed by Parliament, eight thousand pounds.

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1763 For compleating a convenient way, street, and passage, from Essex bridge, to the city of Dublin, five thousand pounds.

For widening the passage leading from the Inns Quay, to Arran Quay, Dublin, one thousand pounds.

The following general state of the Land-carriage Fishery, as it stood on the thirtieth of September, in this year, according to the account of Mr. Blake, the original proposer, and indefatigable conductor of it.

	£.	s.	d.
Capital advanced by the society, — — —	2,000	0	0
Addition made by Mr. Blake at his own risk, being borrowed of the society, on transferring two thousand pounds of three per cent. consolidated annuities, as a security to repay such loan on six months notice, —	1,500	0	0
A further addition by the superintendant, on the thirtieth of September, 1763, being wanted to make good all payments to that time, —	235	15	7
Total,	3,735	15	7

To answer which sum, there is the following stock in hand of materials:—

	£.	s.	d.
Ninety machines, which, with the necessary alterations and improvements, cost — — — —	2,584	12	6
Fitting up a receptacle office, and sundry shops, — —	914	9	7
Seven horses, to carry the fish to market, with harness and saddle, —	160	3	9
Baskets for the machines, markets, &c. — —	129	14	3
Scales and weights for receptacle shops and sea-ports, —	48	15	4
Cost of a well-boat, and fitting up the same, — —	146	3	0
A complete set of turbot-lines, and other apparatus for two smacks of sixty tons each, — — — —	50	19	6
A water-cart and tubs for the receptacle, and a large lanthorn erected at Lyme Coo, as a guide to the fishing boats on that coast, —	28	3	9
Total,	4,063	1	9

Besides sundry other utensils in the shops and receptacles.

Thus it appears, says Mr. Blake, that there is a stock in hand amounting to four thousand and fifty-three pounds one shilling and eight-pence, to answer the capital of three thousand seven hundred and thirty-five pounds fifteen shillings and seven-pence; and to carry on the undertaking, in case the public should be disposed to encourage and assist the prosecution thereof by a further aid. And in regard to any objections which may be made, that the above stock, on account of its being used, would, if it were to be sold, fall far short of its prime cost; which, it must be allowed, will always be the case whenever a business is dropped so soon after its commencement, (and, in this particular circumstance, it is probable would not produce sufficient to reimburse the superintendant the monies he has advanced) it may not be improper to observe, that the alteration and improvements in the machines, which were found necessary, have put them in a better state than when they were first made.—Hence there is the greatest reason to believe, that by an additional aid, this undertaking may be carried on in a more enlarged manner, and to the additional benefit of the public; who could not expect that the superintendant, with two thousand pounds, should feed the multitudes in this metropolis,

when

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1763 when it is well known that the sales at Billingsgate, in the course of a year, amount to between two and three hundred thousand pounds. But, nevertheless, he has brought upwards of two hundred tons of fish from distant parts of the sea-coasts, which has produced nineteen thousand six hundred and forty-one pounds nineteen shillings and nine-pence halfpenny: and if it is allowed, as in justice it ought, that such fish has been sold at less than half the former usual prices, the public will find they have gained an advantage of nearly twenty thousand pounds from this undertaking, besides the effect it has had on the general sale of fish, which is probably equal to more than double the above sum; from whence the superintendant presumes to think, that his endeavours have benefited the public to the amount of fifty or sixty thousand pounds.

That this patriotic scheme of the Land-carriage Fishery, should meet with the most strenuous and artful opposition from a body of men whose wealth flowed from the monopoly it was intended to destroy, was a natural expectation; but that the public should suffer a plan which promised such very extensive and solid advantages to the inhabitants of London to become abortive, is an equal matter for wonder and lamentation: but so it was;—the body of fish-mongers made their well known opulence the engine of carrying on their designs, and, in the end, triumphed over one of the most beneficial and practicable projects that the patriotic zeal of a private individual ever suggested.

If it were the practice of this country, as it was of ancient Rome, to bestow a civic crown on those citizens, who by inventions or measures of public utility, have promoted the public welfare,—Mr. Blake would have been found worthy of that distinguishing reward. It becomes us, however, to record his name with all the honour which this page can bestow upon him, for his public humanity in suggesting, as well as for the disinterested and indefatigable zeal with which he superintended the scheme of supplying the city of London and its environs with fish by land-carriage.

As a curious article of information, and, as we conceive, perfectly appropriate to this work, we shall give an account of the sale, charges, and nett proceeds of the *La Hermoine*, a Spanish register-ship, condemned in the high court of Admiralty of Great Britain, on the fourteenth of September, 1762.

By the sale of five hundred and fifty bags of dollars to sundries, containing four hundred and seventy-six thousand five hundred and eighteen ounces, at sixty-three pence halfpenny,	£. s. d. 126,078 14 3
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By thirteen hundred and forty-six bags of dollars to sundries, weighing one million one hundred and sixty-five thousand six hundred and fifty-two ounces, at sixty-three pence,	305,983 13 0
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October 11.—By twenty-eight bags of gold coin to the Bank of England, weighing twenty-two thousand nine hundred and seventy-four ounces three pennyweights and eighteen grains, at seventy-eight shillings and six-pence,	90,173 13 8
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Carried forward,	522,236 0 11
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A. D.

1763

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,				522,236	0	11
By four ingots of gold, at their various assays, rendered six hundred and twenty-one ounces one pennyweight fourteen grains standard, at seventy-eight shillings and six-pence,	2,437	14	8			
By one ditto, as above, weighing eleven ounces fifteen pennyweights nine grains, at seventy-nine shillings,	46	11	3			
				2,484	5	11
By thirty-four ingots of silver, as above, rendered eighteen thousand eight hundred and sixty-three ounces three grains standard, at sixty-four pence,	5,030	3	5			
By three ditto, as above, weighing five hundred and twenty-seven ounces one grain, at sixty-five pence,	142	14	10			
				5,172	18	3
By six ounces six pennyweights two grains of fine gold, in two ingots, at eighty-six shillings,	27	5	3			
Deduct expences of parting four hundred and forty-five ounces of gilt silver, at four-pence,	7	8	4			
				19	16	11
By fundry trinkets, &c. sold to fundries, for				424	7	7
October 7.—By four hundred and twenty-seven serons, and three hundred and six bags of Guiquil cocoa, sold at Garraway's Coffee-house, by public sale, in sixty lots, weighing together, nett one thousand and twenty-nine hundred-weight six pounds, at various prices, from one hundred and one shillings to one hundred and nine shillings per cwt.	5,371	19	2			
Discount, two and a half per cent.	134	6	4			
				5,237	12	10
November 11.—By one thousand one hundred and thirty-nine blocks of tin, sold this day, as above, in thirty-nine lots, to fundries, weighing nett one thousand and sixty-five hundred-weight one quarter seventeen pounds, at various prices, from ninety-two shillings to one hundred shillings per hundred-weight, and produced	5,168	0	9			
Discount, two per cent.	129	4	0			
				5,038	16	9
By eight bales of Vigonia, and one ditto of Alpagna wool, sold at a public sale, in nine lots, to fundries, weighing nett five hundred and forty-five pounds, from three shillings and one halfpenny, to seven shillings and four-pence per pound,	141	8	0			
By nine bolts of canvas, sold as above, at thirty shillings,	13	10	0			
By one case of saddle-cloths, ditto,	10	0	0			
	155	8	0			
Discount, two and a half per cent.	3	17	8			
				151	10	4
Carried forward,				540,765	9	6

A. D.

1763

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,				540,765	9	6
By sixty-one barrels of gunpowder, weighing thirty-four hundred-weight, at sixty shillings,				102	0	0
By a launch belonging to the ship, sold by Thomas Mayne and Co. at Gibraltar, for fifty-one pifereens and one-sixth, at forty-pence each,				8	10	6
March 4, 1763.—By the ship Hermoine, with all her tackle, apparel, and furniture, guns, stores, &c. sold this day at public sale, for				3,010	0	0
May 16.—By a bounty bill for one hundred and fifty men, dated January 1763, at five pounds each, is			825	0	0	
Deduct, sold at seven per cent. discount,	£. 61	17	6			
Brokerage, one-half per cent.	1	1	0			
			62	18	6	
				762	1	6
Total amount,				544,648	1	6

C H A R G E S.

For freight of the treasure from Gibraltar,	—	5,303	6	0
For duties paid on the cargo at the Custom-house, with officers fees, and amount of the subsidy 1747, on the cocoa not drawn back	—	3,030	6	0
For brokerage paid on selling the treasure, cargo, and ship,	—	747	5	0
For all charges of lighterage, landing, wharfage, and warehouse rent, &c. on the cargo, &c. expences paid on the ship in Gibraltar and England, and all other contingent expences whatsoever,	—	1,685	4	6
For commission on the gold and silver coin,	—	£. 13,055	18	0
For ditto on remaining produce of this prize,	—	1,120	12	0
		14,176	10	0
		24,942	11	6
Nett proceeds,		519,705	10	0

DISTRIBUTION of the foregoing Nett Proceeds, viz.

To the admiral and commodore,	—	64,963	3	9
ACTIVE'S SHARE.				
To the captain,	—	65,053	13	9
To three commissioned officers, at	—	£. 13,004	14	1 each
To eight warrant ditto,	—	4,336	3	2
To twenty petty ditto,	—	1,806	10	10
To one hundred and fifty-eight seamen, &c.	—	485	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
		315,983	15	9
Carried forward,		315,983	15	9

A. D.
1763

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,		315,983	15	9
FAVOURITE'S SHARE.					
To the captain,	—	—	64,872	13	9
To two commissioned officers, at	—	£. 12,974 10 9 each	25,949	1	6
To seven warrant ditto,	—	—	4,324	16	11
To sixteen petty ditto,	—	—	1,802	0	4
To one hundred and ten seamen, &c.	—	—	484	2	5
			53,253	14	4
			£. 519,705 10 0		

The Active being entitled to the whole bounty money, occasions the difference in the shares between the two ships.

At this period, a recapitulation of the different annual supplies which have been granted by Parliament, to support the several wars that have been carried on since the Revolution, will, we trust, be considered as an article of necessary and connecting information.

King WILLIAM III.

Annual Supply.	Medium per Ann.
£.	£.
1693—4,017,079	5,105,505
1694—5,539,087	
1695—5,036,430	
1696—5,539,853	
1697—5,395,078	
Total, 25,527,527	

Queen ANNE.

£.	
1702—3,551,459	5,369,621
1703—3,535,457	
1704—4,005,369	
1705—4,570,488	
1706—5,075,761	
1707—5,942,381	
1708—5,926,849	
1709—6,563,138	
1710—6,425,268	
1711—6,789,169	
1712—6,680,495	
Total, 59,065,834	

King GEORGE II.

Annual Supply.	Medium per Ann.
£.	£.
1740—3,874,076	6,651,013
1741—5,006,039	
1742—5,723,537	
1743—5,912,383	
1744—6,243,538	
1745—6,562,902	
1746—7,088,354	
1747—9,389,196	
1748—10,059,094	
Total, 59,859,119	

K. GEORGE II. and III.

£.	
1756—7,229,117	13,229,376
1757—8,350,320	
1758—10,486,457	
1759—12,761,310	
1760—15,503,563	
1761—19,619,119	
1762—18,655,750	
Total, 92,605,636	

SUPPLIES

A. D.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the Service of the Year 1763.

DECEMBER 2. £. s. d.

1763 I. That thirty thousand men be employed for the sea service for 1763, including four thousand two hundred and eighty-seven mariners.

II. That a sum not exceeding four pounds per man per month, be allowed for maintaining them, for thirteen months, including ordnance for sea service, — — — —

1,560,000 0 0

FEBRUARY 3.

For defraying the extraordinary expences of his Majesty's land forces, and other services incurred, from the twenty-fifth of December 1761, to the thirty-first of October 1762, both days inclusive, and not provided for by Parliament, — — — —

1,588,756 15 5

I. For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to sea and marine officers for 1763. — — — —

380,661 3 11

II. For compleating the works of the hospitals for sick and wounded seamen, building near Plymouth, — — — —

3,000 0 0

III. Upon account, to be applied by the commissioners, or governors, of Greenwich Hospital, for the support and relief of seamen, worn out, and become decrepit in the service of their country, who shall not be provided for within the said hospital, — — — —

10,000 0 0

IV. That provision be made, for enabling his Majesty to satisfy all the bills payable in course of the navy and victualling offices, and for transports, which were made out on, or before, the thirty-first of December 1762, amounting to the sum of — — — —

3,075,316 0 3

FEBRUARY 14.

That provisions be made for enabling his Majesty to satisfy all the debentures, payable out of his Majesty's office of ordnance, which were dated on, or before, the thirty-first of December last, and remain undischarged, amounting to the sum of — — — —

595,423 2 5

FEBRUARY 17.

Towards enabling the commissioners for putting in execution, an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled, An Act for paving Westminster Streets, &c. more effectually to perform the trusts reposed in them, — — — —

5,000 0 0

FEBRUARY 24.

I. To enable his Majesty to discharge the like sum, raised in pursuance of an act made in the last session of Parliament, and charged upon the first aids or supplies to be granted in this session, — — — —

1,000,000 0 0

Carried over

1,000,000 0 0

II. Towards

A. D.

1763

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	1,000,000	0	0
II. Towards the buildings, rebuildings, and repairs of his Majesty's ships for 1763, — — — —	100,000	0	0
	1,100,000	0	0

FEBRUARY 28.

For defraying the extraordinary expence of his Majesty's land forces, and other services incurred, from the first of November 1762, to the nineteenth of February 1763, and not provided for by Parliament,

951,249 0 6

MARCH 1.

For defraying the charge of two thousand one hundred and twenty horse, and nine thousand nine hundred foot, together with the general and staff officers, the officers of the hospital, and officers and others belonging to the train of artillery, the troops of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, in the pay of Great Britain, for ninety days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of March 1763, both days inclusive, together with the subsidies, pursuant to treaty, —

85,158 14 8 $\frac{3}{4}$

II. For defraying the charge of an additional corps of nine hundred and twenty horse and six thousand and seventy-two foot, together with the general and staff officers, the officers of the hospital, and officers and others belonging to the train of artillery, the troops of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, in the pay of Great Britain, for three hundred and twenty-eight days, from the first of January 1763, to the twenty-fourth of November following, both days inclusive, pursuant to treaty, —

87,690 18 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

III. For defraying the charge of an augmentation to the troops of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, in the pay of Great Britain, consisting of six hundred and fifty-six horse, and two thousand seven hundred and thirty-six foot, for three hundred and thirty-five days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of November 1763, both days inclusive, pursuant to treaty, — — —

45,420 16 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

IV. For defraying the charge of one thousand four hundred and forty-four cavalry, and two thousand three hundred and thirty infantry, the troops of the reigning Duke of Brunswick, in the pay of Great Britain, for eighty-six days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twentieth of March 1763, both days inclusive, together with the subsidies for the said time, pursuant to treaties, — — —

49,308 1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$

V. To make good a deficiency in the sum voted last session, for the pay of an augmentation of the troops of the reigning Duke of Brunswick, for 1762, — — — —

4,328 8 5

VI. For the charge of the office of ordnance for land service, for 1763, — — — —

204,329 0 0

476,235 19 3 $\frac{1}{4}$

MARCH

A. D.
1763

MARCH 7.

£. s. d.

I. To enable his Majesty to pay off, and discharge, the Exchequer bills made out by virtue of an act of last session, entitled, An Act for enabling his Majesty to raise a certain Sum, &c. and charged upon the first aids, or supplies, to be granted in this session, — 1,500,000 0 0

II. For defraying the charge of fifty-six thousand three hundred and sixty effective men, for guards and garrisons, and other his Majesty's land forces in Great Britain, Guernsey, and Jersey, including those in Germany, Portugal, and Belleisle, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days inclusive, according to their present establishment, and for reducing their numbers, — — — 485,317 2 10

III. For maintaining his Majesty's forts and garrisons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, Gaudeloupe, Africa, Martinico, and the Havannah, and for provisions for the garrisons in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Gibraltar, Providence, Quebec, Gaudeloupe, Senegal, and Goree, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days inclusive, according to their present establishment, and for reducing their numbers, — — — 278,893 11 0

IV. For defraying the charge of four regiments of foot, serving in the East Indies, for three hundred and sixty-five days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fifth of December 1763, both days inclusive, — — — 71,381 16 8

V. For defraying the charge of two regiments of horse, serving in Germany, and four regiments of foot, serving in North America, on the Irish establishment, for one hundred and twenty-one days, from the twenty-fifth of December 1762, to the twenty-fourth of April 1763, both days inclusive, — — — 16,438 7 0

VI. For the pay of the general and general staff officers, in Great Britain, for 1763, — — — 11,291 8 6½

VII. That a number of land forces, including two thousand seven hundred and forty-three invalids, amounting to seventeen thousand five hundred and twenty-six effective men, commissioned and non-commissioned officers included, be employed for 1763.

VIII. For defraying the charge of the said number of land forces in Great Britain, Guernsey and Jersey, from the twenty-fifth of April 1763, to the twenty-fourth of December following, both days inclusive, being two hundred and forty-four days, — — — 408,372 13 4

IX. For maintaining his Majesty's forces and garrisons in the Plantations, including those in garrison at Minorca and Gibraltar, and for provisions for the garrisons in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Gibraltar, Quebec, and Senegal, for two hundred and forty-four days, from the

Carried over, 2,771,694 19 4½

A. D.
1763

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	2,771,694	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
twenty-fifth of April 1763, to the twenty-fourth of December following, both days inclusive, — — — —	281,781	3	6
	3,053,476 2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$		
<i>MARCH</i> 10.			
For defraying the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning the twenty-fifth of March 1763, —	150,000	0	0
<i>MARCH</i> 15.			
I. To enable his Majesty to compleat the payment of two hundred and twenty thousand pounds, as a reasonable succour in money, to the Land- grave of Hesse Cassel, pursuant to treaty, — —	50,000	0	0
II. To make good the deficiency of the half-subsidies of tonnage and poundage, charged with the payment of several annuities, by the acts made in the sixth of Queen Anne, and the sixth of King George I. to satisfy all annuities charged thereupon, to the fifth of January 1763,	49,558	1	6
III. To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency on the fifth of July 1762, of the several rates and duties upon offices and pensions, and upon houses, and upon win- dows or lights, which were made a fund by an act of the thirty-first of George II. for paying annuities at the Bank of England, in respect of five millions borrowed toward the supply for 1758, —	48,891	14	11
IV. To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency on the fifth of January 1762, of the additi- onal duty upon strong beer and ale, to answer and pay the several an- nuities of three pounds per cent. and one pound two shillings and six- pence per cent. on one million one hundred and forty thousand pounds, part of twelve millions borrowed towards the supply granted by an act of the first of George III. for 1761, — — — —	26,710	0	0
V. Upon account, towards enabling the governors and guardians of the Foundling Hospital, to maintain and educate such children as were received into the said Hospital, on, or before the twenty-fifth of March 1760, from the thirty-first of December 1762, exclusive, to the thirty- first of December inclusive, and that the said sum be issued and paid for the use of the said Hospital, without fee or reward, or any deduction whatsoever, — — — —	40,050	0	0
VI. Upon account for defraying the charges incurred, by supporting and maintaining the settlement of Nova Scotia in 1760, and not provided for by Parliament, — — — —	4,589	13	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
VII. Upon account, for maintaining and supporting the civil esta- blishment of Nova Scotia for 1763, — — — —	5,674	1	10
Carried over,	225,473	12	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
VIII. Upon			

A. D.
1763

£. s. d.

Brought over, 225,473 12 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

VIII. Upon account, for defraying the charges of the civil establishment of Georgia, and other incidental expences attending the same, from the twenty-fourth of June 1762, to the twenty-fourth of June 1763,

4,136 0 0

 229,609 12 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

MARCH 17.

I. Upon account, to enable his Majesty to give a proper compensation to the respective provinces in North America, for the expences incurred by them in the levying, cloathing, and pay, of the troops raised by the same, according as the active vigour, and strenuous efforts, of the respective provinces shall be thought, by his Majesty, to merit,

133,333 6 8

II. To make good the deficiency of the grants for 1762 —

7,151 9 1 $\frac{1}{4}$

III. To be employed in maintaining and supporting the fort at Anamaboo, and the other British forts and settlements upon the coast of Africa, — — — —

13,000 0 0

IV. For the paying of pensions to the widows of such reduced officers of the land forces and marines, as died upon the establishment of half pay in Great Britain, and who were married to them before the twenty-fifth of December 1716, for 1763, — — —

1,742 0 0

V. Upon account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces and marines, for 1763, — — —

33,351 17 6

VI. Upon account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces already disbanded, and such as are to be disbanded, for 1763,

88,704 3 4

VII. For defraying the charge for allowances to the several officers and private gentlemen of the two troops of horse guards, and regiment of horse reduced, and to the superannuated gentlemen of the four troops of horse guards, for 1763, — — —

2,910 1 8

VIII. To be paid as a reward to John Harrison, upon a proper discovery to be made by him, for the use of the public, of the principles upon which his instrument, for measuring time at sea, is constructed, and that the said sum be applied for the purpose aforesaid, out of any money unapplied to the use of the navy, in the hands of the Treasurer of the navy, — — —

5,000 0 0

 285,192 18 3 $\frac{1}{4}$

MARCH 19.

I. To make good to his Majesty the like sum which has been issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of this House,

6,410 5 0 $\frac{3}{4}$

II. Upon account, for out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, 1763,

51,708 13 4

 58,118 19 2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Sum total of the supplies granted in this session,

13,522,039 14 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

A. D.

1763

And in order to provide for this large sum of money, the following resolutions of the committee of ways and means were agreed to by the House on the days as follow.

£. s. d.

DECEMBER 4.

That towards raising the supply granted to his Majesty, the duties on malt, &c. be further continued from the twenty-third of June 1763, to the twenty-fourth of June 1764,

750,000 0 0

DECEMBER 9.

That a land tax of four shillings in the pound be raised, in the usual manner, for one year, from the twenty-fifth of March 1763,

2,037,854 19 11

FEBRUARY 7.

That all persons interested in, or entitled unto, any bills, payable in course of the navy, or victualling offices, or for transports, which were made out on, or before, the thirty-first day of December last, who shall, on, or before the twenty-fifth day of March next, carry the same (after having had the interest due thereupon computed, and marked upon the said bills, at the navy or victualling office respectively) to the Treasurer of his Majesty's navy, to be marked and certified by him or his paymaster and cashiers, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, shall be entitled unto, and have, an annuity, transferable at the Bank of England, for the principal and interest due on the bills, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, to commence from the twenty-fifth day of March next, payable half yearly, in lieu of all other interest, until redeemed by Parliament, the said annuities to be charged upon the sinking fund, and the sums, which shall be issued out of the sinking fund, for payment of the said annuities, to be from time to time replaced out of the next aids to be granted by Parliament,

3,468,977 3 2

FEBRUARY 17.

That all persons interested in, or entitled unto, any debentures payable out of his Majesty's office of ordnance, which were dated on, or before the thirty-first day of December last, who shall, on, or before, the twenty-fifth day of March next, carry the same to the Treasurer of his Majesty's ordnance, to be certified by him, or his deputy or cashier, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, shall be entitled unto, and have, an annuity transferable at the Bank of England, for the sums due on the said debentures, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, to commence from the twenty-fifth day of March next, payable half yearly until redeemed by Parliament, the said annuities to be charged upon the sinking fund, and the sums which shall be issued out of the sinking fund for payment of the said annuities, to be, from time to time, replaced out of the next aids to be granted by Parliament,

595,423 2 5

3

MARCH

A. D.
1763

MARCH 8.

£. s. d.

I. That there be raised in manner following: that is to say, the sum of two millions eight hundred thousand pounds by annuities, after the rate of four pounds per cent. per annum, transferable at the Bank of England, and redeemable by Parliament, and the sum of seven hundred thousand pounds by two lotteries, to be drawn at different times in the year 1763, each lottery to consist of thirty-five thousand tickets, and every blank to be of the value of five pounds, the blanks and prizes to be attended with the like four per cent. transferable and redeemable annuities, the said several annuities to commence from the fifth day of April 1763, and to be payable half yearly on the tenth day of October, and the fifth day of April in every year, and that every contributor towards the said sum of two millions eight hundred thousand pounds, shall, for every eighty pounds so contributed, be entitled to receive a ticket in each of the said lotteries, upon the payment of ten pounds for each ticket; and that every contributor shall, on, or before, the fifteenth day of this instant March, make a deposit with the cashiers of the Bank of England, of twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. in part of the sum or sums to be contributed by him towards the said sum of two millions eight hundred thousand pounds, and also a deposit of ten pounds per cent. in part of the monies to be contributed by him in respect of each lottery, as a security for making the future payments respectively, on or before the times herein after limited: that is to say,

On the two millions eight hundred thousand pounds.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the tenth day of May next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the sixteenth day of June next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-first day of July next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the thirtieth day of August next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-seventh day of September next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-first day of October next.

Twelve pounds ten shillings per cent. on, or before, the twenty-fourth day of November next.

On the lotteries for seven hundred thousand pounds.

Ninety pounds per cent. on, or before, the thirty first day of April next, for compleating the payment upon the first lottery.

Ninety pounds per cent. on, or before, the eleventh day of October next, for compleating the payment upon the second lottery.

Which several sums so received, shall, by the said cashiers, be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's exchequer, to be applied, from time to

time,

A. D.

1763 time, to such services as shall then have been voted by this House, in this session of Parliament, and not otherwise; and, that every contributor, who shall pay in the whole of his contribution on account of his share in the annuities attending the said sum of two millions eight hundred thousand pounds, at any time, on, or before, the eighteenth day of October next, or on account of his share in the first lottery, on, or before, the twentieth day of April next, or on account of his share in the second lottery, on, or before, the tenth day of October next, shall be allowed a discount after the rate of three pounds per cent. per annum, on the sum so completing his contribution respectively, to be computed from the day of compleating such contribution, to the twenty-fourth day of November next, in respect of the sum paid on account of the first mentioned annuities, and to the twenty-first day of April next, in respect of the sum paid on account of the first lottery; and to the eleventh day of October next, in respect of the sum paid on account of the second lottery, £. s. d.

3,500,000 0 0

II. That an additional duty of eight pounds per ton be laid upon all French wines, which shall be imported into this kingdom.

III. That the said annuities and lotteries be charged upon the said additional duties upon wine, for which the sinking fund shall be the collateral security.

MARCH 14.

I. That a duty of four shillings per hoghead be laid upon all cyder and perry made within this kingdom, over and above all other duties now payable for cyder or perry, to be paid by the maker thereof.

II. That a duty of two pounds per ton be laid upon all cyder and perry imported into this kingdom.

III. That the said duties upon cyder and perry be charged, together with the duties upon wines granted in this session, with the payment of the annuities mentioned in a resolution of this House, of the eighth of this instant March.

MARCH 19.

I. That there be issued and applied out of such monies as shall or may arise of the surplusses, excesses, or overplus monies, and other revenues, composing the sinking fund, the sum of

2,000,000 0 0

II. That there be issued and applied the money remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer, being the surplus of the several duties upon beer and ale, granted by an act of the first of his Majesty's reign, after satisfying all charges and incumbrances thereupon, to the fifth of January 1763, amounting to the sum of

47,120 9 6

III. That there be issued and applied such part of the sum of twenty thousand pounds, granted to his Majesty in the last session, upon account,

Carried over, 247,120 9 6

towards

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Brought over, 2,047,120 9 6

towards defraying the charge of the pay of the militia of that part of Great Britain called England, when unembodied, and of the cloathing of the part of the said militia then unembodied, for one year, beginning the twenty-fifth of March 1762, as shall remain in the receipt of the Exchequer, after the said charges are satisfied.

IV. That there be raised by loans or exchequer bills to be charged upon the first aids to be granted in the next session; and such exchequer bills, if not discharged, with interest thereupon, on, or before the fifth of April 1764, to be exchanged, and received in payment in such manner as exchequer bills have usually been exchanged and received in payment,

1,800,000 0 0

3,847,120 9 6

That an act, made in the sixth year of his late Majesty King George II. entitled, An Act for the better securing and encouraging the Trade to his Majesty's Sugar Colonies in America; which was to continue in force for five years, to be computed from the twenty-fourth day of June 1733, and to the end of the then next session of Parliament, and which, by several subsequent acts, made in the eleventh, nineteenth, twenty-sixth, twenty-ninth, and thirty-first years of the reign of his said late Majesty, and an act, made in the first year of the reign of his present Majesty, was further continued until the twenty-ninth day of September 1763, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament, be further continued, with amendments, until the twenty-ninth of September 1764, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament.

That an act, made in the twenty-first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George II. entitled, An Act for encouraging the making of Indigo in the British plantations in America; which was to continue in force for seven years, from the twenty-fifth of March 1749, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament, and which, by an act, made in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of his said late Majesty, was further continued until the twenty-fifth of March 1763, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament, be further continued, with amendments, until the twenty-fifth of March 1770, and from thence to the end of the then next session of Parliament.

Total sum provided for by this session, 14,199,375 16 0

Provisions exceed the grants in the sum of 577,335 1 7½

Besides what may arise from the said third resolution of the committee of ways and means agreed to on the nineteenth of March; therefore some of the grants, or provisions, made by this session, must be extremely deficient, if it should be found necessary hereafter to grant any thing for making good the deficiency of the grants for 1763.

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The debt of his Majesty's navy, as it stood on the thirty-first of December, 1762, was as follows, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
Wear and tear, ordinary and transports,	3,034,394	1	5
Seamens wages,	3,223,297	15	2
Victualling debt,	1,329,321	9	3
Sick and wounded, &c.	113,628	15	5
Total,	7,700,642	1	3
From whence deducting the money in the treasurer's hands,	503,616	15	3½
As also the money that remained to come in of the supplies of the year,	1,267,900	10	10
The debt will then be,	5,929,124	15	1½

An account of all the public debts, at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out at the fifth of January, 1763, with the annual interest or other charges payable for the same.

EXCHEQUER.		Principal debt.			Annual interest, &c.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Annuities for long terms, being the remainder of the original sum contributed and unsubscribed to the South Sea Company,	—	1,836,275	17	10¼	136,453	12	8
Ditto for two lives, with the benefit of survivorship, being the original sum contributed,		108,100	0	0	7,567	0	0
Ditto for two and three lives, being the sum remaining after what is fallen in by deaths,		75,505	14	10¼	9,155	12	0
Exchequer bills made out for interest of old debts,		2,200	0	0			
<i>Note</i> ,—The land taxes and duties on malt, being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the one million charged on the deductions of six-pence per pound on pensions, nor the one million five hundred thousand pounds towards paying off the navy debt, &c. in 1762, nor the sum of one million charged on the supplies of the year 1763.							

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

By two acts of Parliament, of the ninth of William III. and two other acts of the sixth and ninth of Anne, at three pounds per cent. per annum,

Annuities at three pounds per cent. of 1744, charged on the surplus of the additional duties on low wines, spirits, and strong waters,

of Anne, at three pounds per cent. per annum,	3,200,000	0	0	97,285	14	4
Annuities at three pounds per cent. of 1744, charged on the surplus of the additional duties on low wines, spirits, and strong waters,	1,000,000	0	0	30,401	15	8
Carried forward,	6,222,081	12	9½	280,863	14	8

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		Principal debt.	Annual interest, &c.
Brought over,	£.6,222,081 12 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	280,863 14 8	
BANK OF ENGLAND.			
On their original fund at three pounds per cent. from the first of August, 1743,	—	3,200,000 0 0	100,000 0 0
For cancelling Exchequer bills of the third of George I.	—	500,000 0 0	15,000 0 0
Purchased of the South Sea Company,	—	4,000,000 0 0	121,898 3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Annuities at three per cent. charged on the surplus of the funds for lottery 1714,	—	1,250,000 0 0	37,500 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the duties on coals since Lady-day, 1719,	—	1,750,000 0 0	52,500 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. in 1746, charged on the the duties on licences for retailing spirituous liquors, since Lady-day, 1746,	—	986,800 0 0	29,604 0 0
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the sinking fund by the 25th, 28th, 29th, 32d, and 33d of George II.	21,127,821 5 1 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the duties on offices and pensions, &c. by the 25th Geo. II.	500,000 0 0	33,627,821 5 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,027,588 5 8
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the additional duty on strong beer and ale, by the 1st of George III.	12,000,000 0 0		
Ditto at three per cent. charged on the sinking fund by the 25th of George II.	—	17,701,323 16 4	540,996 14 0
Ditto at three and a half per cent. charged on the same fund by the 29th of George II.	—	1,500,000 0 0	53,343 15 0
Ditto at three and a half per cent. charged on the duties on offices and pensions, by the 31st of Geo. II.	—	4,500,000 0 0	160,031 5 0
Ditto at four per cent. charged on the sinking fund, by the act of the 2d of George III.	—	20,240,000 0 0	820,985 0 0
The subscribers of one hundred pounds to the lottery of 1745, were allowed an annuity for one life of nine shillings a ticket, which amounted to twenty-two thousand five hundred pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to eighteen thousand three hundred and fifty-four pounds; and the subscribers of one hundred pounds to the lottery of 1746, were allowed an annuity for one life of eighteen shillings a ticket, which amounted			

Carried forward,

D 2

95,478,026 14 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3,240,310 17 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

A. D.

Principal debt. Annual Interest, &c.

Brought over, £. 95,478,026 14 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3,240,310 17 9 $\frac{1}{2}$

to forty-five thousand pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to thirty-seven thousand two hundred and ninety-eight pounds ten shillings; and the subscribers for one hundred pounds for three per cent. annuities of 1757, were allowed an annuity for one life of one pound two shillings and six-pence, which amounted to thirty-three thousand seven hundred and fifty pounds, but is now reduced by lives fallen in, to thirty-two thousand five hundred and eighty-five pounds seventeen shillings and six-pence; and the subscribers of one hundred pounds for three per cent. annuities of 1761, were allowed an annuity for ninety-nine years of one pound two shillings and six-pence, amounting, with the charges of management, to the Bank of England, to one hundred and thirty thousand and fifty-three pounds ten shillings and three-pence; which annuities are an increase of the annual interest, but cannot be added to the public debt, as no money was advanced for the same: and the contributors to twelve millions, for the service of the year 1762, were entitled to an annuity of one per cent. per annum, to continue for ninety-eight years, and then to cease; which, with the charges of management to the Bank of England, amount to the sum of one hundred and twenty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-seven pounds ten shillings,

SOUTH SEA COMPANY.

On their capital stock and annuities of the ninth of George I. — —

Annuities at three pound per cent. of 1751, charged on the sinking fund, — —

	25,025,309 13 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	765,326 3 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	309,979 7 9
	2,100,000 0 0	64,181 5 0	
Total,	122,603,336 8 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	4,379,797 13 8	

According to the bills of mortality of London for this year, the christenings and burials were as follows:

Christened, Males,	—	7,761	Buried, Males,	—	13,147
Females,	—	7,372	Females,	—	12,996
		15,133			26,143
In all,		15,133	In all,		26,143

The

A. D.

1763 The general historian would be induced, in this place, to exercise the pleasing power of recapitulatory observation.—He would, as it were, officially enumerate the leading events of the late important period, direct the attention of his reader to their immediate contingencies, and perhaps take a prophetic flight into the region of futurity, and bring their more remote consequences to his consideration. A comparative view of the different nations who had lately formed those grand alliances, beneath whose powerful struggles all Europe trembled, from the commencement of the war, to the conclusion of peace, would occupy his attention, and employ his pen. As a Briton, he would trace, with no common ardour, the career of British glory in every quarter of the globe, and dwell with the most exulting triumph on the punished perfidy and blasted ambition of the House of Bourbon.

But though we may feel all the glowing enthusiasm with which the remembrance of such a glorious period must naturally inspire every patriotic bosom, we must content ourselves with fulfilling the duty assigned us to perform, and persevere in that path which is traced out for us. The plume of glory, and the laurel of victory, must yield, in our page, to the horn of plenty, which is the offspring of commerce. It is our office to trace public prosperity through the exertions of national industry, directed by commercial genius, instead of looking for it in the more striking, but less happy progress of war and conquest.

We may however observe, that peace now extended itself over every part of Europe; and the late belligerent nations began to consider of the different means they respectively possessed of healing the wounds they had received during the late war. To the north, Russia settled, in the most amicable manner, her dispute with Denmark concerning the duchy of Holstein; and, to the south, the King of Sardinia obtained a confirmation of that part of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, which established his reversionary title to Placentia, on failure of the male line of the Infant Don Philip, or in case that Prince or his issue should succeed to the crowns of his family.

The Corsicans, indeed, must form a little hostile groupe in our picture of peace; they were still struggling for their liberties against their tyrannic masters, the Genoese;—and we cannot help remarking in this place, the necessity which will oblige us to record in another,—that they struggled in vain.

The successes of the late war had now added a large extent of territory to the British empire; and the national trade consequently possessed a variety of new objects, and claimed many additional regulations, to direct that internal energy with which an unparalleled series of successes seemed to have inspired it. This, therefore, may be considered as an important epocha in the commerce of our country; and as that compact, resistless union of its parts began very soon to discover symptoms of separation, we shall now offer, as an interesting and very important part of commercial history, a regular statement of every fifth year of the imports and exports of the trade of Great Britain, during the course of the current century to the year 1763; as a kind of scale, by which the progress of our national trade may be clearly measured, and its variations generally compared.

The following Tables, which contain this useful and ready information, are taken from the annual accounts given in to the House of Commons; and may, therefore, be presumed to possess all the accuracy which official care could bestow upon them.

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1700, to CHRISTMAS 1701.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	21,074	19	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	133,499	2	1
Canaries, — —	119,773	13	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	40,735	10	9
Denmark and Norway, —	58,773	9	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	44,695	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
East Country, —	167,382	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	149,644	16	6
East India, — —	762,188	7	3	122,048	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flanders, — —	65,123	19	2	270,564	6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
France, — —	123,940	—	9	212,708	7	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Germany, — —	729,097	18	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,005,304	5	6
Holland, — —	521,257	16	—	2,138,569	8	— $\frac{3}{4}$
Ireland, — —	285,390	18	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	296,144	7	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Italy, — —	384,937	10	— $\frac{3}{4}$	135,202	2	7
Madeiras, — —	1,614	8	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	11,444	17	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Newfoundland, —	19,696	18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	9,156	6	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Portugal, — —	206,924	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	277,109	4	10
Russia, — —	90,581	13	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	69,201	10	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Scotland, — —	73,988	18	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	56,802	2	2
Spain, — —	532,691	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	430,515	4	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Streights, — —	—	—	—	389,167	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sweden, — —	190,509	18	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	70,806	19	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Turkey, — —	386,611	2	9	239,102	12	8
Venice, — —	56,801	9	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	65,401	12	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Alderney, — —	718	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	13	—
Guernsey, — —	7,834	16	—	7,681	19	2
Jersey, — —	12,888	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	8,516	12	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Antigua, — —	82,110	6	9	27,963	13	10
Barbadoes, — —	280,678	4	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	182,045	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bermudas, — —	1,079	17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,065	18	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Carolina, — —	16,973	6	3	13,908	8	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hudson's Bay, —	5	5	—	1,658	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jamaica, — —	235,214	14	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	105,234	12	8
Montserrat, —	31,569	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,191	15	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Nevis, — —	87,447	—	8	19,417	10	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
New England, —	32,656	7	2	86,322	13	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
New Providence, —	982	6	— $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—
New York, — —	18,547	3	6	31,910	6	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pennsylvania, —	5,220	6	3	12,003	16	10
St. Christopher's, —	21,581	9	10	2,396	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Virginia and Maryland, —	235,738	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	199,683	2	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Foreign coin and bullion, —	—	—	—	751,187	12	10

Totals,

5,869,606 9 10

7,621,053 6 5 $\frac{3}{4}$

Exports exceed the Imports,

1,751,446 16 7 $\frac{3}{4}$

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1704, to CHRISTMAS 1705.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	8,679	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	65,104	16	3
Canaries, — —	24,949	19	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	19,301	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Denmark and Norway, — —	81,348	18	11	43,349	1	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
East Country, — —	96,451	2	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	100,281	10	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
East India, — —	391,974	17	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	27,004	14	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Flanders, — —				30	1	3
Germany, — —	676,381	8	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	978,104	13	4
Holland, — —	572,209	15	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,715,002	0	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ireland, — —	279,992	1	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	244,057	6	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Italy, — —	173,996	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	134,466	9	11
Madeiras, — —	8,285	15	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	19,498	7	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Newfoundland, — —	5,008	15	9	8,596	0	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Portugal, — —	222,542	19	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	818,995	16	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Russia, — —	142,134	10	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	74,247	1	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Scotland, — —	57,902	12	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	50,035	13	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Spain, — —	10,346	8	10	22,827	7	6
Streights, — —				196,118	18	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sweden, — —	205,856	9	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	46,747	5	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Turkey, — —	50,874	11	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	90,443	8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Venice, — —	49,110	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	17,534	9	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Alderney, — —	20	10	0	30	0	0
Guernsey, — —	7,438	9	11	4,001	19	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jersey, — —	12,521	6	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1,765	6	4
Antigua, — —	104,278	5	1	22,092	5	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Barbadoes, — —	353,578	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	127,906	8	0
Bermudas, — —				61	2	11
Carolina, — —	2,698	18	0	19,788	6	8
Hudson's Bay, — —				2,021	10	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Jamaica, — —	75,388	3	4	125,047	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Montserrat, — —	29,702	14	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,604	14	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Nevis, — —	121,576	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	20,607	0	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
New England, — —	22,793	4	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	62,504	0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York, — —	7,393	1	4	27,902	14	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pennsylvania, — —	1,309	17	7	7,206	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
St. Christopher's, — —	22,053	14	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,591	12	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Virginia and Maryland, — —	116,768	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	174,322	17	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
West Indies in general, — —				31,765	9	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Prize goods, — —	96,084	11	4 $\frac{3}{4}$			
Foreign coin and bullion, — —				192,711	5	0
Totals, — —	4,031,649	14	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	5,501,677	11	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,470,027	16	4

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1709, to CHRISTMAS 1710.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — — —	14,436	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	69,459	2	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Canaries, — — —	27,266	15	10	21,488	6	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Denmark and Norway, — — —	60,852	7	— $\frac{3}{4}$	31,571	8	11
East Country, — — —	114,999	6	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	29,634	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
East India, — — —	248,266	5	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	126,310	5	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flanders, — — —	10,494	5	— $\frac{1}{2}$	127,080	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
France, — — —	—	—	—	41,101	12	—
Germany, — — —	457,878	14	— $\frac{1}{4}$	975,803	19	4
Holland, — — —	637,447	17	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	2,071,306	12	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ireland, — — —	310,846	—	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	285,424	2	9
Italy, — — —	169,654	16	11	126,089	1	2
Madeiras, — — —	6,536	8	3	17,318	17	4
Newfoundland, — — —	13,965	1	4	11,874	8	7
Portugal, — — —	192,113	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	614,635	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Russia, — — —	115,725	6	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	212,318	10	— $\frac{1}{2}$
Spain, — — —	271,401	19	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	215,935	7	4
Streights, — — —	870	10	5	275,385	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sweden, — — —	173,585	10	2	27,620	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Turkey, — — —	11,610	—	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	417,690	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Venice, — — —	42,756	9	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	45,960	15	— $\frac{1}{2}$
Alderney, — — —	24	18	—	102	4	3
Guernsey, — — —	14,126	12	4	9,769	16	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jersey, — — —	16,429	7	10	7,094	16	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Antigua, — — —	171,592	3	5	26,954	17	3
Barbadoes, — — —	230,047	14	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	64,223	11	9
Bermudas, — — —	—	—	—	1,228	2	5
Carolina, — — —	20,793	9	—	19,613	18	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Hudson's Bay, — — —	—	—	—	1,160	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jamaica, — — —	213,990	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	59,993	15	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Montserrat, — — —	24,805	13	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	2,369	15	10
Nevis, — — —	95,825	11	2	10,640	16	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
New England, — — —	31,112	17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	106,338	6	4
New York, — — —	8,203	18	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	31,475	—	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pennsylvania, — — —	1,277	2	7	8,594	14	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
St. Christophers, — — —	44,243	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	3,698	18	8
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	188,429	8	6	127,639	—	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
West Indies in general, — — —	5,164	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	34,383	4	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Prize goods, — — —	64,567	18	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—
Foreign coin and bullion, — — —	—	—	—	395,620	—	10
Totals,	4,011,341	7	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	6,690,828	15	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

Exports exceed the Imports,

2,679,487 7 10

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1714, to CHRISTMAS 1715.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	—	—	30,096 12 6	51,912 6 2		
Canaries,	—	—	68,556 1 1	46,218 16 10		
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	103,107 8 11	49,744 6 11		
East Country,	—	—	94,951 11 7	50,814 7 1		
East India,	—	—	579,944 4 2	36,997 12 6		
Flanders,	—	—	25,103 16 1	251,049 1 8		
France,	—	—	47,127 15 2	111,019 12 7		
Germany,	—	—	656,417 15 4	877,515 19 1		
Holland,	—	—	436,588 3 10	1,945,738 7 10		
Ireland,	—	—	389,437 1 0	420,062 11 5		
Italy,	—	—	428,903 15 1	161,534 5 6		
Madeiras,	—	—	7,149 13 9	57,564 9 2		
Newfoundland,	—	—	11,288 2 2	8,120 1 10		
Portugal,	—	—	333,385 6 0	625,381 9 9		
Russia,	—	—	241,876 7 11	105,153 10 0		
Spain,	—	—	302,807 7 10	395,868 9 3		
Streights,	—	—	30,041 1 7	380,696 5 8		
Sweden,	—	—	165,631 10 9	37,235 7 1		
Turkey,	—	—	311,903 10 5	181,109 7 1		
Venice,	—	—	61,197 17 8	29,382 8 2		
Alderney,	—	—	67 12 0	434 7 6		
Guernsey,	—	—	6,663 13 3	25,067 12 9		
Jersey,	—	—	9,147 11 4	15,136 1 2		
Antigua,	—	—	162,503 17 9	27,032 5 9		
Barbadoes,	—	—	386,787 7 3	144,649 3 10		
Bermudas,	—	—	523 7 10	1,809 17 11		
Carolina,	—	—	29,158 0 5	16,631 19 1		
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	—	1,402 18 8		
Jamaica,	—	—	273,747 3 6	110,870 7 4		
Montserrat,	—	—	30,675 8 9	4,476 11 6		
Nevis,	—	—	88,161 17 1	9,498 14 0		
New England,	—	—	66,555 12 8	164,650 7 6		
New York,	—	—	21,316 19 10	54,629 1 5		
Pennsylvania,	—	—	5,461 4 9	16,182 7 7		
St. Christopher's,	—	—	57,536 3 0	4,077 3 9		
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—	174,756 4 6	199,274 17 1		
West Indies in general,	—	—	2,366 9 8	106,629 0 11		
Spanish West Indies,	—	—	—	196,691 17 1		
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	457,145 10 3		
Totals,	—	—	5,640,943 16 5	7,379,409 0 8		
			Exports exceed the Imports,	1,738,465 4 3		

E

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1719, to CHRISTMAS 1720.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	25,307	1	8	130,350	14	11
Canaries, — —	39,642	13	3	19,845	11	8
Denmark and Norway, — —	112,263	8	1	129,674	—	4
East Country, — —	109,557	15	10	98,968	13	4
East India, — —	931,441	10	11	83,811	19	9
Flanders, — —	30,836	14	5	213,782	19	—
France, — —	69,758	15	3	192,372	13	8
Germany, — —	508,432	10	8	760,224	13	3
Holland, — —	482,085	4	2	1,915,112	6	—
Ireland, — —	282,812	—	7	328,583	15	5
Italy, — —	436,169	12	7	123,292	15	9
Madeiras, — —	4,628	17	4	39,338	7	6
Newfoundland, — —	14,643	12	3	11,859	3	9
Portugal, — —	319,476	3	9	775,835	17	3
Russia, — —	169,932	12	9	92,229	1	8
Spain, — —	251,984	19	2	499,324	8	—
Streights, — —	43,014	9	9	342,715	4	3
Sweden, — —	191,352	5	11	111,555	7	4
Turkey, — —	398,564	9	6	359,838	17	10
Venice, — —	38,370	1	3	19,836	18	5
Alderney, — —	35	—	—	257	1	6
Guernsey, — —	11,699	14	3	24,371	6	6
Jersey, — —	13,795	14	10	13,184	15	5
Antigua, — —	172,006	5	6	18,295	17	5
Barbadoes, — —	312,962	19	9	91,011	15	—
Bermudas, — —	1,897	10	7	2,172	9	3
Carolina, — —	62,736	6	8	18,290	12	11
Hudson's Bay, — —	10,947	2	3	1,897	9	9
Jamaica, — —	384,691	5	3	85,632	6	10
Montserrat, — —	39,511	9	9	2,965	5	—
Nevis, — —	71,695	4	3	8,302	8	11
New England, — —	49,206	12	6	128,767	2	11
New York, — —	16,836	12	7	37,397	19	5
Pennsylvania, — —	7,928	14	10	24,531	15	2
St. Christopher's, — —	136,710	—	2	12,009	7	6
Virginia and Maryland, — —	331,482	2	5	110,717	17	10
West Indies in general, — —	5,666	—	5	82,539	19	7
Foreign coin and bullion, — —	—	—	—	1,025,829	16	6
Totals,	6,090,083	15	1	7,936,728	16	6
Exports exceed the Imports,				1,846,654	1	5

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1724, to CHRISTMAS 1725.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	67,514	4	—	284,024	15	10
Canaries,	45,360	6	5	45,263	11	10
Denmark and Norway,	106,909	9	7	62,481	8	11
East Country,	209,149	3	11	105,029	8	4
East India,	759,778	12	3	93,795	12	1
Flanders,	72,610	2	5	256,852	17	1
France,	46,572	13	1	389,916	8	2
Germany,	759,969	18	1	1,039,375	17	6
Greenland,	4,262	15	2	24	18	4
Holland,	563,684	8	4	1,777,724	12	1
Ireland,	333,870	18	5	474,836	13	6
Italy,	529,424	14	11	151,952	19	2
Madeiras,	4,049	19	10	66,672	18	8
Newfoundland,	19,243	5	11	22,528	2	5
Portugal,	410,967	15	9	780,992	9	6
Russia,	250,315	6	11	24,847	14	10
Spain,	437,823	19	5	636,192	17	5
Streights,	98,824	—	9	515,633	17	—
Sweden,	161,884	14	7	38,324	15	8
Turkey,	345,379	17	11	252,317	9	1
Venice,	34,273	3	11	18,614	6	11
Alderney,	152	17	9	497	12	6
Guernsey,	7,639	1	8	30,281	13	1
Jersey,	9,472	9	—	13,353	9	11
Antigua,	217,452	16	9	35,873	8	3
Barbadoes,	360,912	—	2	107,008	1	4
Bermudas,	4,829	12	2	7,213	14	9
Carolina,	91,942	13	7	39,182	12	8
Hudson's Bay,	11,343	17	7	2,410	17	1
Jamaica,	449,408	17	4	182,883	18	4
Montserrat,	44,322	5	—	3,385	16	1
Nevis,	86,646	11	10	7,412	5	4
New England,	72,021	12	6	201,768	—	4
New York,	24,976	5	3	70,650	8	—
Pennsylvania,	11,981	1	3	42,209	14	2
St. Christopher's,	200,442	4	1	19,982	5	3
Virginia and Maryland,	214,730	2	2	195,884	11	6
West Indies in general,	4,428	10	—	239,603	6	8
Spanish West Indies,	20,136	—	10	244,876	16	3
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	2,870,598	5	6
Totals,	7,094,708	8	6	11,352,480	11	4

Exports exceed the Imports,

4,257,772 2 10

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1729, to CHRISTMAS 1730.

<i>Countries.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
Africa, — — —	£. 57,081 18 10	£. 260,690 2 7
Canaries, — — —	22,738 19 6	33,565 15 6
Denmark and Norway, — — —	95,715 10 3	51,494 12 7
East Country, — — —	190,540 19 8	136,935 16 9
East India, — — —	1,059,759 18 11	135,484 1 1
Flanders, — — —	100,213 9 7	278,717 9 1
France, — — —	40,834 12 2	290,505 9 8
Germany, — — —	831,390 11 8	1,092,490 9 1
Greenland, — — —	—	462 10 9
Holland, — — —	568,102 15 11	1,766,526 15 6
Ireland, — — —	294,156 4 4	532,698 19 5
Italy, — — —	490,694 0 3	50,739 8 0
Madeiras, — — —	6,365 7 2	40,831 5 3
Newfoundland, — — —	28,954 12 6	21,725 3 9
Portugal, — — —	228,118 9 6	1,015,754 15 3
Russia, — — —	258,802 1 6	46,275 7 5
Spain, — — —	518,972 6 8	777,949 6 11
Streights, — — —	136,488 5 3	494,735 14 3
Sweden, — — —	191,022 15 7	15,271 11 11
Turkey, — — —	291,786 17 1	174,103 13 2
Venice, — — —	57,916 14 0	12,928 1 0
Alderney, — — —	77 14 8	501 12 0
Guernsey, — — —	8,660 0 4	17,689 0 0
Jersey, — — —	10,393 7 9	19,878 19 2
Antigua, — — —	268,801 9 3	32,582 11 4
Barbadoes, — — —	368,326 18 9	118,240 3 5
Bermudas, — — —	329 11 4	68 10 0
Carolina, — — —	151,739 17 6	64,785 11 5
Hudson's Bay, — — —	12,466 4 11	2,315 3 9
Jamaica, — — —	533,517 19 8	155,566 10 8
Montserrat, — — —	65,599 14 2	3,755 15 3
Nevis, — — —	87,229 18 11	7,655 17 2
New England, — — —	54,701 5 10	208,196 5 5
New Providence, — — —	226 10 2	—
New York, — — —	8,740 11 3	64,356 16 6
Nova Scotia, — — —	176 6 9	—
Pennsylvania, — — —	10,582 1 4	48,592 7 5
St. Christopher's, — — —	248,135 16 3	30,723 6 4
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	346,823 2 3	150,931 6 5
West Indies in general, — — —	7,877 12 2	147,260 19 5
Spanish West Indies, — — —	125,956 15 7	245,995 4 1
Foreign coin and bullion, — — —	—	3,425,153 6 3
Totals, — — —	7,780,019 9 2	11,974,135 14 11
Exports exceed the Imports,		4,194,116 5 9

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1734, to CHRISTMAS 1735.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	41,663	14	5	138,659	0	2
Canaries,	24,121	7	0	34,633	0	8
Denmark and Norway,	93,507	2	4	57,570	1	3
East Country,	205,753	11	0	120,344	5	3
East India,	1,297,400	7	5	186,375	4	5
Flanders,	165,351	12	10	241,981	12	6
France,	71,584	19	0	228,462	1	6
Germany,	835,180	13	7	1,197,776	13	0
Holland,	524,625	13	6	1,954,837	8	0
Ireland,	417,421	19	9	769,244	15	6
Italy,	497,064	10	11	162,461	13	3
Madeiras,	4,950	19	2	23,947	8	6
Newfoundland,	30,101	12	6	25,535	0	0
Portugal,	358,056	8	10	1,045,533	11	0
Russia,	252,068	4	8	54,335	14	8
Spain,	659,602	2	1	761,760	1	3
Streights,	95,341	19	5	802,745	0	9
Sweden,	213,850	9	5	25,514	17	6
Turkey,	126,191	12	7	292,797	10	1
Venice,	52,173	6	11	20,417	5	8
Alderney,	55	6	2	478	15	8
Guernsey,	18,672	15	2	41,101	13	0
Jersey,	8,840	15	2	26,394	14	5
Antigua,	284,480	0	0	44,203	15	3
Barbadoes,	201,973	8	8	52,096	13	5
Bermudas,	125	9	10	285	14	10
Carolina,	145,348	7	11	117,837	3	10
Georgia,	3,010	16	11	12,112	13	2
Hudson's Bay,	9,479	8	2	2,232	17	11
Jamaica,	525,395	12	1	132,490	13	5
Montserrat,	94,550	0	8	6,559	16	2
Nevis,	67,370	13	0	7,152	10	7
New England,	72,899	15	6	189,125	5	7
New Providence,	322	11	8	385	1	0
New York,	14,155	8	2	80,405	9	4
Pennsylvania,	21,919	6	3	48,804	11	4
St. Christopher's,	286,839	10	6	19,808	8	7
Virginia and Maryland,	394,995	12	5	220,381	6	9
West Indies in general,	26,746	19	10	172,095	0	2
Spanish West Indies,	16,989	15	6	9,956	14	11
Foreign coin and bullion,				4,215,303	2	9
Totals,	8,160,184	0	11	13,544,144	7	0
Exports exceed the Imports,				5,383,960	6	1

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1739, to CHRISTMAS 1740.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	62,787	11	7	110,543	15	—
Canaries, — —	2,565	13	2			
Denmark and Norway, — —	89,496	19	3	70,536	—	1
East Country, — —	199,623	10	7	135,480	7	10
East India, — —	870,476	12	7	281,751	4	9
Flanders, — —	251,123	12	8	402,697	5	2
France, — —	67,094	2	7	225,060	1	—
Germany, — —	747,795	9	3	1,091,061	7	6
Holland, — —	403,664	6	6	1,754,204	15	4
Ireland, — —	390,565	—	7	628,288	9	4
Italy, — —	462,770	—	11	141,781	10	—
Madeiras, — —	3,019	—	7	12,772	15	8
Newfoundland, — —	43,588	8	6	21,562	7	2
Portugal, — —	201,603	7	2	789,046	17	6
Russia, — —	300,751	12	—	62,287	8	8
Spain, — —	229,134	10	6	101,635	18	8
Streights, — —	74,386	8	9	605,685	14	—
Sweden, — —	180,839	17	1	15,557	14	5
Turkey, — —	26,787	7	3	150,374	19	4
Venice, — —	62,044	8	9	12,158	—	—
Alderney, — —	194	14	—	562	—	2
Guernsey, — —	58,279	9	8	62,700	11	7
Jersey, — —	24,483	17	9	13,816	2	4
Antigua, — —	172,129	11	4	36,708	5	4
Barbadoes, — —	228,811	15	6	81,859	17	9
Bermudas, — —	14	12	—	632	13	10
Carolina, — —	266,560	4	5	181,821	14	11
Georgia, — —	924	9	8	3,524	7	7
Hudson's Bay, — —	11,869	3	7	3,837	2	8
Jamaica, — —	507,624	19	4	194,697	1	1
Montserrat, — —	71,535	16	11	4,838	8	5
Nevis, — —	36,309	15	3	4,254	15	6
New England, — —	72,389	16	2	171,081	2	5
New Providence, — —				685	—	—
New York, — —	21,498	—	5	118,777	8	10
Pennsylvania, — —	15,048	12	—	56,751	14	9
St. Christopher's, — —	168,698	15	9	19,260	18	6
Virginia and Maryland, — —	341,997	10	11	281,428	10	11
West Indies in general, — —	5,339	5	11	320,328	1	4
Spanish West Indies, — —	202	8	9			
Prize goods, — —	29,747	10	11	27,736	3	1
Foreign coin and bullion, — —				672,151	3	—
Totals,	6,703,778	10	6	8,869,939	15	5
Exports exceed the Imports,				2,166,161	4	11

OF THE ORIGIN OF COMMERCE.

39

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1744, to CHRISTMAS 1745.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, — —	11,031	—	11	71,399	11	—
Denmark and Norway, — —	92,823	12	5	68,895	16	8
East Country, — —	230,039	18	11	142,909	8	—
East India, — —	973,705	13	6	293,113	12	10
Flanders, — —	16,920	7	9	143,863	—	4
France, — —	1,200	5	10	54,688	11	11
Germany, — —	674,507	14	11	1,486,157	7	6
Holland, — —	431,374	9	8	2,278,018	10	2
Ireland, — —	1,441,498	13	—	910,920	4	—
Italy, — —	455,293	2	—	88,106	4	3
Madeiras, — —	2,395	11	—	21,966	11	6
Newfoundland, — —	28,488	1	5	28,302	17	4
Portugal, — —	418,452	9	10	1,065,156	9	6
Russia, — —	294,702	13	9	62,672	3	8
Spain, — —	168,352	15	2	82,681	3	8
Streights, — —	7,674	4	8	422,615	10	9
Sweden, — —	250,707	11	10	30,310	8	4
Turkey, — —	225,797	12	9	780	8	—
Venice, — —	46,445	14	6	20,551	10	6
Alderney, — —	49	10	—	427	5	11
Guernsey, — —	30,377	5	7	37,202	4	1
Jersey, — —	27,360	17	5	13,955	6	10
Antigua, — —	188,650	16	11	32,769	4	—
Barbadoes, — —	165,779	11	8	90,813	13	10
Bermudas, — —	123	3	—	487	4	2
Cape Breton, — —	—	—	—	203	11	10
Carolina, — —	91,847	5	3	86,815	13	6
Georgia, — —	—	—	—	939	14	1
Hudson's Bay, — —	11,380	16	4	3,790	10	3
Jamaica, — —	358,385	9	6	131,322	16	6
Montserrat, — —	49,139	3	9	1,145	8	7
Nevis, — —	49,314	10	9	1,399	2	6
New England, — —	38,948	10	9	140,463	4	7
New York, — —	14,083	3	9	54,957	1	2
Pennsylvania, — —	10,130	9	2	54,280	10	11
St. Christopher's, — —	212,129	9	10	21,859	—	2
Virginia and Maryland, — —	399,423	6	3	197,799	12	3
West Indies in general, — —	14,159	7	6	193,598	9	10
Prize goods, — —	413,728	12	—	734,447	—	1
Foreign coin and bullion, — —	—	—	—	1,425,543	12	—
Totals,	7,847,123	3	3	10,497,329	17	—
Exports exceed the Imports,				2,650,206	13	9

40
A. D.
1763

AN HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION
IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1749, to CHRISTMAS 1750.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 29,007 2 10	£. 160,791 14 —
Canaries, — — —	7,720 11 8	30,146 9 —
Denmark and Norway, — — —	90,273 8 3	78,052 5 8
East Country, — — —	334,316 19 7	157,000 8 8
East India, — — —	1,104,180 11 11	508,654 6 2
Flanders, — — —	98,714 9 7	422,694 7 4
France, — — —	66,832 15 1	324,385 5 11
Germany, — — —	645,513 12 6	1,255,872 14 1
Greenland, — — —	6,368 13 5	
Holland, — — —	325,487 12 8	2,204,065 5 —
Ireland, — — —	612,808 1 11	1,316,600 2 2
Italy, — — —	291,526 3 6	172,159 1 3
Madeiras, — — —	2,554 2 7	20,134 8 6
Newfoundland, — — —	37,372 19 7	44,867 11 6
Portugal, — — —	244,276 9 4	1,208,248 19 5
Russia, — — —	584,091 16 8	111,846 6 4
Spain, — — —	379,116 1 6	1,783,075 19 8
Streights, — — —	64,663 17 7	762,929 5 —
Sweden, — — —	187,022 9 1	16,162 2 7
Turkey, — — —	189,285 16 7	172,800 5 1
Venice, — — —	38,576 3 9	2,191 7 7
Alderney, — — —	147 14 —	938 1 3
Guernsey, — — —	31,751 12 3	40,942 11 10
Jersey, — — —	23,707 2 6	15,772 1 11
Anguilla, — — —	3,075 3 10	
Antigua, — — —	203,453 11 —	72,191 3 2
Barbadoes, — — —	215,255 17 3	150,097 18 —
Bermudas, — — —	1,986 10 10	16,447 3 8
Carolina, — — —	191,607 6 3	133,037 — 9
Georgia, — — —	1,942 19 11	2,125 15 5
Hudson's Bay, — — —	8,609 4 7	4,375 19 —
Jamaica, — — —	731,429 11 6	242,349 10 —
Montserrat, — — —	51,463 15 —	11,406 16 1
Nevis, — — —	31,738 8 10	3,874 10 5
New England, — — —	48,455 9 —	343,659 6 8
New Providence, — — —	2,462 11 1	
New York, — — —	35,634 8 6	267,130 — —
Nova Scotia, — — —	226 2 9	13,875 19 7
Pennsylvania, — — —	28,191 — —	217,713 — 10
St. Christopher's, — — —	253,200 14 2	48,995 4 3
Tortola, — — —	24,838 3 —	1,186 10 6
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	508,939 1 10	349,419 18 3
Prize goods, — — —	4,213 4 9	7,833 14 10
Foreign coin and bullion, — — —		2,432,923 11 9
Totals,	7,772,039 12 5	15,132,004 3 1
Exports exceed the Imports,		7,359,964 10 8

A. D.
1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1754, to CHRISTMAS 1755.

Countries.			Imports.			Exports.		
			£.			£.		
Africa,	—	—	40,254	16	8	173,670	—	—
Canaries,	—	—	7,874	3	1	29,785	15	5
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	73,946	19	6	89,210	10	2
East Country,	—	—	267,228	14	2	174,579	12	6
East India,	—	—	1,246,776	11	3	874,921	6	8
Flanders,	—	—	91,623	14	1	463,173	19	9
France,	—	—	37,002	8	8	186,310	1	4
Germany,	—	—	696,093	4	9	1,361,964	13	5
Greenland,	—	—	28,857	5	4	1,367	14	11
Holland,	—	—	276,237	4	4	1,710,587	13	1
Ireland,	—	—	643,165	15	5	1,070,063	10	6
Italy,	—	—	690,136	9	7	216,429	4	1
Madeiras,	—	—	3,075	17	1	16,486	16	8
Newfoundland,	—	—	37,105	9	5	36,946	8	8
Portugal,	—	—	263,080	16	9	1,072,700	6	7
Russia,	—	—	661,740	1	11	85,327	8	3
Spain,	—	—	368,464	17	3	973,335	4	5
Streights,	—	—	137,414	17	4	547,310	2	—
Sweden,	—	—	200,049	5	2	19,234	2	8
Turkey,	—	—	69,687	1	7	71,589	12	9
Venice,	—	—	28,886	5	—	8,790	14	8
Alderney,	—	—	5	5	—	887	11	5
Guernsey,	—	—	36,085	15	11	26,049	2	3
Jersey,	—	—	18,016	17	1	18,962	4	2
Anguilla,	—	—	2,091	11	2	80,686	18	5
Antigua,	—	—	366,012	19	10	197,267	7	7
Barbadoes,	—	—	275,490	1	3	4,074	2	3
Bermudas,	—	—	325,525	13	6	187,887	4	9
Carolina,	—	—	4,437	16	10	2,630	19	4
Georgia,	—	—	7,998	12	1	3,849	15	5
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	775,096	9	6	335,504	14	1
Jamaica,	—	—	79,972	2	3	4,488	15	8
Montserrat,	—	—	82,463	15	6	14,260	13	9
Nevis,	—	—	59,533	6	11	341,796	7	3
New England,	—	—	1,473	—	6	151,071	5	—
New Providence,	—	—	28,054	12	3	24,052	14	10
New York,	—	—	487	17	3	144,456	7	2
Nova Scotia,	—	—	32,336	10	6	57,927	1	10
Pennsylvania,	—	—	269,575	9	3	457	19	8
St. Christopher's,	—	—	31,279	11	6	285,157	4	5
St. Thomas,	—	—	18,556	18	7	1,117,012	9	9
Tortola,	—	—	489,668	17	10	12,112,255	17	6
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—				3,409,390	14	8
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—						
Totals,	—	—	8,772,865	2	10			
Exports exceed the Imports,						F		

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1763

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1759, to CHRISTMAS 1760.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	—	—	—	39,410	14	0
Canaries,	—	—	—	3,131	0	5
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	—	58,745	10	10
East Country,	—	—	—	205,464	16	5
East India,	—	—	—	1,785,679	11	1
Flanders,	—	—	—	31,228	3	0
France,	—	—	—	37	5	9
Germany,	—	—	—	668,076	11	4
Greenland,	—	—	—	10,824	3	0
Holland,	—	—	—	412,397	3	1
Ireland,	—	—	—	904,180	14	8
Italy,	—	—	—	506,100	15	7
Madeiras,	—	—	—	3,386	14	10
Portugal,	—	—	—	299,088	4	8
Russia,	—	—	—	474,680	2	9
Spain,	—	—	—	460,042	13	9
Streights,	—	—	—	61,850	1	4
Sweden,	—	—	—	193,340	2	5
Turkey,	—	—	—	58,916	12	6
Venice,	—	—	—	41,138	2	6
Alderney,	—	—	—	51	3	6
Guernsey,	—	—	—	39,119	4	2
Jersey,	—	—	—	23,003	9	1
Antigua,	—	—	—	159,162	19	0
Barbadoes,	—	—	—	223,716	12	11
Bermudas,	—	—	—	70	12	7
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	5	8	3
Carolina,	—	—	—	162,769	6	7
Georgia,	—	—	—	12,198	14	10
Guadaloupe,	—	—	—	424,366	18	4
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	—	9,142	12	5
Jamaica,	—	—	—	1,034,283	3	8
Montserrat,	—	—	—	75,936	12	4
Nevis,	—	—	—	45,750	11	0
New England,	—	—	—	37,802	13	1
Newfoundland,	—	—	—	26,360	2	4
New Providence,	—	—	—	1,730	0	7
New York,	—	—	—	21,125	0	0
Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	701	7	4
Pennsylvania,	—	—	—	22,754	15	3
Quebec,	—	—	—	2,154	18	5
St. Croix,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Christopher's,	—	—	—	292,470	19	2
Tortola,	—	—	—	30,351	19	0
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—	—	504,451	1	11
British and Irish linens, per bounty,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prize goods,	—	—	—	465,602	18	5
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals,	—	—	—	9,832,802	11	1
Exports exceed the Imports,	—	—	—	—	—	—

5,746,270 9 4

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1762, to CHRISTMAS 1763.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
Africa, — — —	£.	18,128	2 8	£.	463,818	9 4
Canaries, — — —		2,739	13 1		21,032	16 9
Denmark and Norway, — — —		89,179	11 2		140,610	10 7
East Country, — — —		247,066	1 6		299,857	7 7
East India, — — —		1,059,335	18 7		887,083	7 0
Flanders, — — —		83,320	3 10		384,177	12 8
France, — — —		43,158	5 5		197,100	11 3
Germany, — — —		1,085,107	0 9		2,272,272	16 8
Greenland, — — —		8,117	15 2		22	15 3
Holland, — — —		476,383	10 3		1,910,240	19 5
Ireland, — — —		769,379	11 8		1,640,713	3 3
Italy, — — —		948,140	8 0		468,779	18 4
Madeiras, — — —		1,119	3 9		37,278	13 3
Portugal, — — —		304,056	0 10		727,623	12 9
Russia, — — —		801,279	0 7		78,901	1 11
Spain, — — —		590,506	5 11		1,168,072	1 3
Streights, — — —		20,276	11 4		325,622	18 6
Sweden, — — —		249,540	15 0		20,494	1 7
Turkey, — — —		76,004	9 2		93,646	43 11
Venice, — — —		31,841	18 4		20,259	14 0
Alderney, — — —		63	0 0		1,239	14 6
Belle-Isle, — — —		17	13 7		929	9 6
Guernsey, — — —		127,192	14 5		26,219	17 10
Jersey, — — —		17,639	13 4		16,287	0 5
Anguilla, — — —		2,369	18 9			
Antigua, — — —		180,347	3 1		101,574	8 2
Barbadoes, — — —		252,537	10 0		213,909	4 9
Bermudas, — — —					8,623	15 11
Canada, — — —		26,856	13 5		149,539	16 4
Carolina, — — —		282,366	3 6		250,132	2 0
Dominica, — — —					1,264	5 6
Florida, — — —					9,946	3 2
Georgia, — — —		14,469	18 4		44,908	19 9
Grenades, — — —		261,552	3 0		53,118	5 6
Guadaloupe, — — —		412,303	18 7		11,159	1 4
Havannah, — — —		249,387	4 8		6,643	11 6
Hudson's Bay, — — —		8,567	10 1		4,393	2 7
Jamaica, — — —		1,159,023	15 11		584,278	2 5
Martinico, — — —		344,162	7 1		12,455	14 2
Montserrat, — — —		59,571	15 11		15,505	18 1
Nevis, — — —		45,280	9 10		29,557	9 8
New England, — — —		74,815	1 1		258,854	19 6
Newfoundland, — — —		34,102	18 8		55,102	8 7
New Providence, — — —		6,438	2 11			
New York, — — —		53,988	14 4		238,560	2 1
Nova Scotia, — — —		4,312	9 10		16,303	3 4
Pennsylvania, — — —		38,228	10 2		284,152	16 0
St. Christophers, — — —		234,981	17 9		104,724	7 10
St. Croix, — — —		8,396	5 9		1,144	0 0
Tortola, — — —		58,571	4 2		1,901	1 4
Virginia and Maryland, — — —		642,294	2 9		555,391	12 10
West Indies in general, — — —					39,578	10 10
British and Irish linens, per bounty, — — —					30,604	6 6
Foreign coin and bullion, — — —					1,672,674	12 6
Prize goods, — — —		160,516	12 10		201,194	6 7
Totals,		11,665,036	0 9		16,160,181	16 3
Exports exceed the Imports,					4,495,145	15 6

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In the early part of this year, an account was brought by the Lapwing Packet from the East Indies, that war had broke out in that part of the British empire, with circumstances of such an unpromising nature, as to cause an immediate fall of fourteen per cent. in India stock. The proprietors, as may be naturally supposed, were greatly alarmed at this intelligence; and their alarms were, in some degree, communicated to the nation at large. We shall mention the leading causes of this disagreeable event.

Mir Cossim Aly Cawn, who had been elevated, in the year 1760, by the Governor and Council of Bengal, to the subahship of that province, in the room of his father-in-law Mir Jaffier, was a bold, subtle, and enterprizing character; and feeling, in the utmost extent, the disgrace of his dependent state, was determined to seize the first opportunity of freeing himself from it. Diffimulation was the first engine which he employed—and he employed it with success; for it obtained for him the firm establishment of his own interior government, by the assistance of the English forces, and silenced all suspicion of his future designs. He then removed from the vicinity of Calcutta to a place called Mongheer, two hundred miles higher up the Ganges, which he fortified with uncommon expedition; and having formed such an army in point of real strength and discipline, as India had never yet seen among her native defenders, he began to discover his real designs, and to employ the power he had acquired, to the detriment of those from whom he had received the means of obtaining it. The first step he took, was to subject the English private traders to the regular and equal payment of duties throughout his dominions; and directed that their disputes, if they arose beyond their own limits, should be decided by his magistrates.

This unexpected conduct of the Subah greatly alarmed the factory; and the governor, Mr. Vansittart, thought it a matter of sufficient importance to require his going in person to Mongheer, to offer his expostulations upon it. But the Subah had taken his measures with a spirit determined to pursue them, and answered the remonstrances with an equal force of reason and coolness of expression. “If,” said he, “the servants of the English Company
“were permitted to trade in all parts, and in all commodities, free from the payment of cus-
“toms, as many of them now pretend, they must, of course, draw all the trade into their
“own hands, and my customs would be of so little value, that it would be much more for
“my interest to make trade entirely free, and collect no customs from any persons whatever,
“upon any kind of merchandize. This would draw a number of merchants into the coun-
“try, and increase my revenues, by encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of a large
“quantity of goods for sale; at the same time that it would cut off the principal subject of
“disputes which had disturbed the good understanding between us; an object I have more
“than any other at heart.”

This was a stile of reasoning, which was equally unexpected and unanswerable. The reasonings of the Nabob were founded in justice, and he accompanied them with such declarations as induced the English governor to submit, where he was accustomed to dictate, and to consent to regulations which operated very much to the disadvantage of the English traders.

As soon as the effect of this negotiation was known at Calcutta, the factory lost all moderation in the astonishment and indignation which they felt on the occasion. The council disavowed the conduct of their governor, and refused to abide by the treaty which he had concluded. They asserted, that he had assumed an authority which he did not possess; that the regulations to which he had assented, were not only destructive to public and private trade, but were a stain on the English name; and, that having acted, as he had done, without the
advice

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1764 advice or consent of the council, was an evident breach of its privileges, to which they could not submit. They therefore instantly dispatched orders to all the different factories, to pay no regard to the agreement which had lately been entered into between Governor Vansittart and the Subah.

But such counteracting measures were not the fruits of an unanimous spirit. No common difference of opinion prevailed, and violent disputes succeeded; public confusion then followed, and commerce was interrupted in all its interior channels. An application was made to Mir Cossim to enter upon another negociation, which he refused with all the insolence of conscious power. No other way was therefore left to settle this dispute, but the contest of arms; and the English factory having once more proclaimed Mir Jaffier, Subah of Bengal, prepared to march their forces into the field.

Though this war with the Nabob terminated to the advantage of the East India Company, the accounts from India, at this moment, were of an alarming nature, and very violent debates took place at the public meetings of the proprietors to consider of the present state of the Company's affairs. The first subject of debate, was the conduct of their servants abroad, and much acrimony mingled itself with the charges and recriminations which were dealt forth without reserve by the friends of the different Oriental parties: but the disputes which arose on this subject, were soon lost in the consideration of a more extensive and important object, the general administration of the Company's affairs both abroad and at home. Lord Clive was almost universally considered as the only person qualified to be commander in chief in India, at this critical period; while Mr. Sullivan was supported by a very large and respectable body of proprietors, as a person the most capable to take the chair of the direction at home. But Lord Clive absolutely refused to act as a servant of the company, if Mr. Sullivan was permitted to take a leading part in the administration of their concerns; and, at length, the gloomy prospect of affairs in India determined the contest to the wishes of that nobleman. The dispute, also, which had for some time subsisted between the Company and Lord Clive, relative to his jaghire, being finally settled, and harmony fully restored, his lordship, who was honoured by his Majesty, on the occasion, with the Order of the Bath, and the rank of Major General in India, set out for the seat of his future government with the confidence of the company and his country.

The rapacity of the company's servants in their Oriental governments, had disgraced the national character; and if the company had been as attentive to public honour as they were to private interest, some effectual methods would have been already taken to keep the persons employed by them in India, within the bounds of moderation and justice. Indeed, the dispute between the Directors and Lord Clive, relative to the jaghire, had produced a positive resolution, that none of their servants should in future accept of any gratuity from any Indian Prince or Governor; but, it is not our immediate business to enquire how far this determination of the direction at home was observed abroad. Abuses still subsisted, and the wisdom of Parliament was, at length, under the necessity of exerting itself in the controul of them. The circumstances of which alteration in the company's affairs, will, of course, solicit our attention when we arrive at the period that produced such a wise and salutary measure.

Mr. Blake, whom we have mentioned with a becoming encomium, in the preceding year was, with great justice, released from the obligation of fifteen hundred pounds, advanced to him by the society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce, on his pledged security, over and above the two thousand pounds consigned to his discretionary use in the undertaking

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1764 undertaking to supply London, and its vicinity, with fish, &c. And soon after the Parliament, convinced of the great utility of the scheme, were pleased to allow him two thousand five hundred pounds for the purpose of encouraging it. But here the national attention to what may be considered as a great national object, ended; Parliament thought proper to shew its approbation of the plan by this temporary grant, and then left it to sink beneath the power of that monopoly which it was its duty to annihilate.

In consequence of the great increase in the price of meat, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to examine into the causes of it.

For this purpose several tradesmen were examined, who alleged, that there was an augmented demand for provisions arising from an increasing consumption in London and its environs; but, on a strict examination to this point, they were not able to produce any conclusive or probable evidence of such an increase as they had supposed. They then accounted for this increase of the price of meat from the want of pork at market, proceeding from the uncommon plenty of acorns in 1762, which induced all the feeders to fatten their whole stock of hogs in that year; which extraordinary slaughter was not then replaced; and that the want of one article, in the general provisions of so populous a city as London, necessarily advanced the price of every other: they added, also, that the wet season had considerably lessened the weight even of fat cattle; that the great scarcity of fodder in 1762, had reduced the breed and stock; and that the failure in the crop of turnips in several counties, this year, had prevented those counties from fattening the usual quantities of beasts. They assigned also the low prices of hides and tallow as an additional reason. But after all, on further examination, the salesmen and butchers were forced to admit, that the high price of provisions was not exclusively the effect of natural causes, but artificially resulting from private combinations, and the want of better regulations for the sale of cattle in open markets.

Thus, the abuses practised in a matter of such general importance, were pointed out; and we wish it were in our power to add, that an adequate remedy was applied.

On the twenty-sixth of March, his Majesty signed a proclamation for the sale, by auction, of all his lands in the islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago; excepting such lands as shall be necessary for fortifications, and other military works, glebes for ministers, allotments for schoolmasters, high-roads, woodlands, and other public purposes, on the following conditions:

“ That the purchasers pay twenty per cent. of the whole purchase money down, ten per cent. in one year, ten per cent. in the second year, and twenty per cent. every year after, till the whole is paid.

“ That every purchaser shall have one white man, or two white women, for every hundred acres cleared; or pay twenty pounds for every white woman, and forty pounds for every white man wanting.

“ That one acre in twenty shall be cleared every year, till half the land is cleared: five pounds to be paid for every acre not so cleared.

“ That six-pence per acre be paid to the crown, as a quit-rent, on such lands as shall be cleared. No person to purchase more than three hundred acres of land in Dominica, or five hundred in the other islands.

“ That districts shall be allotted for towns; a penny per foot for ground-rent for tenements, and six-pence per acre for fields. No more than one town lot to one person, and five acres of pasture land to each town lot: eight hundred acres in each parish to be reserved for poor

“ settlers

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1764 “settlers, to be divided into lots of not less than ten, nor more than thirty acres each, to be granted in fee-simple. The lands to be occupied and entered upon in three months after the grants. No lands granted to poor settlers to be alienable by sale, or otherwise, for seven years, except for the children of the first settlers; and all mines of gold and silver to be reserved to the crown, &c.”

In the month of June, several accounts were received that our logwood cutters in the bay of Honduras had not only been interrupted in their business, but had been ordered to remove suddenly from their usual places of settlement, on pretence of their having no proofs of their being subjects to his Britannic Majesty. This accidental dispute, for it was no more, was made a subject of serious declamation by party writers: for it soon appeared, by two articles in the London gazette, that the whole was owing to a too scrupulous attention to forms in the Spanish commanders, and, perhaps, to an improper neglect of them on the part of our logwood cutters.—These articles are as follows:

“*St. James's, July 21.*—In answer to the representations made by his Majesty's ambassador at the court of Madrid, upon the late transactions of their governor of Yucatan, and his proceedings towards the British subjects employed in cutting logwood in the bay of Honduras, the Spanish ministry have replied,—That they have not received any advices from that governor relative to this affair; but that it is certain the Catholic King has given positive orders to his governor of Yucatan to abide by, and observe the seventeenth article of the last treaty of peace, and that he shall not approve of the conduct of his subjects who act in contradiction to it.—That it is the intention of his Catholic Majesty, that no one shall impede the English in cutting logwood in the stipulated places; and he will disapprove of his governors and ministers whenever they act to the contrary, and renew the most strict orders to that effect.”

“*St. James's, September 28.*—Last night, one of his Majesty's messengers arrived from Madrid, with dispatches from his Majesty's ambassador at that court, transmitting a duplicate of the orders, which, in consequence of his excellency's late remonstrances, that court has dispatched to the governor of Yucatan: in which orders his Catholic Majesty disapproves the proceedings of the said governor with respect to his Majesty's subjects in the bay of Honduras, expresses his desire to give his Majesty the greatest proofs of his friendship, and of preserving peace with the British nation; and commands the said governor to re-establish the British logwood cutters in the several places from which he had obliged them to retire, and to let them know, that they may return to their occupation of cutting logwood, without being disquieted or disturbed, under any pretence whatever.”

About this time, the King of Denmark declared the ports of his two islands of St. Thomas and St. John in America to be free, on the following conditions.

1. No European merchandizes shall be carried thither except in his Danish Majesty's European ships, which shall be furnished with passports. Two per cent. of the value to be paid on importation. All American productions to be admitted in ships of any nation, paying five per cent. of the usual duty; and these vessels may export any goods duty free. But it is forbidden all vessels to go from these islands to St. Croix to take a cargo in return.

2. No productions imported into these islands shall be brought to Europe but in Danish ships, which had first carried goods with passports; and these to unload only in Denmark or the Danish provinces.

3. These

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3. These foreign productions shall be exempted from foreign duty; but those of the growth of St. Thomas and St. John are to pay five per cent.

4. Frauds shall be punished by confiscation, and a fine of five rixdollars for every quintal of sugar, and twenty rixdollars for every one hundred pounds of cotton, over and above the duties.

5. Foreign sugars brought from these islands to the Danish states, shall remain only till they can be exported again, paying one per cent. duty.

To increase the revenue, by a minute attention to remedy abuses in the collection of it, and to throw every possible impediment in the way of contraband practice, were the laudable and favourite objects of government at this period. An order of council was therefore published on the seventeenth of August, signifying his Majesty's intentions, that the laws should be strictly put in execution against smuggling, particularly on the neighbouring coasts of the isle of Man: in consequence of which, the lords commissioners of the admiralty were ordered to station a number of ships and cutters, under the command of discreet officers, in the harbours and on the coasts of that island, in order to carry his Majesty's intentions into execution; and the government of Ireland is likewise required to give such directions for carrying his Majesty's intentions into effect, as to them may respectively appertain: and, in order to prevent foreigners from pleading ignorance of this regulation, his Majesty's intentions were duly notified to most of the courts of Europe.

Several acts of violence having been committed on the first of June in this year, by the commander of a French ship of war, in conjunction with other French vessels, at one of the Turks Islands, the British ambassador at the court of France was ordered to demand immediate satisfaction and full reparation, for this breach of good faith, and such an unprovoked insult to the British crown. In consequence of the representations made on this subject, the court of France not only disavowed the conduct of its officers, but disclaimed all intention whatever of acquiring or conquering the Turks Islands; and gave immediate orders to the Comte D'Estaing, governor of St. Domingo, to cause the island to be immediately abandoned on the part of the French, to restore every thing therein to the condition in which it was on the first of June, and to make reparation of the damages which any of his Majesty's subjects shall be found to have sustained in consequence of the proceedings complained of, according to an estimation to be immediately settled by the said governor, with his Majesty's governor of Jamaica.

These islands are many in number, of which that, where these violences took place, is the most considerable, or rather, the least insignificant, being low, sandy and barren, with very little if any fresh water, without any vegetables, except low shrubs, or any animals except lizards, guanas, and land crabs: but the coast abounds with fish and turtle, and the beach is covered with sea fowl.

It does not appear that any settlement was ever attempted by any European nation on these islands, so that no claim can arise from possession. If priority of discovery bestows any title, they must belong to the Spaniards, and not to the French, who neither discovered nor were ever in possession of them.

The British nation has certainly been accustomed to gather salt on them for many years.—The business of making it is chiefly carried on by Bermudians, who go there in the month of March, and continue during the dry season. The people of New England fetch great quantities of salt from thence for their fisheries: they buy it from four-pence to six-pence sterling

the

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1764 the bushel, and pay the poor Bermudians a small part in money, and the rest in rum and damaged provisions, &c.

These islands have good anchorage to the leeward, but no harbour whatever; they however form, with the Caicos Bank, a channel of about a league over, which the English cruizers frequent in time of war, as it is a common passage for all vessels from Monte Christi. The French pilots from Cape Francois always prefer it, when the wind favours, to the windward passage of our Jamaica-men. These, therefore, are the only reasons that can be assigned for their thus attempting to settle there; though it does not appear that they did more with that view (besides plundering and burning the cabins on it, and carrying the inhabitants, to the number of two hundred, and about nine sail of British shipping, to Cape Francois, where they released them, with orders not to return to Turks Island) than erect two stone monuments of eight feet in height, the materials of which were brought from Old France.

On the twenty-seventh of September, Bank stock rose near eight per cent. on a dividend of two and a half per cent, instead of two and a quarter per cent. being declared for the half year ending on the tenth of the succeeding month.

In the beginning of October, the merchants having presented a petition respecting the high prices of provisions to Lord Halifax, a council was immediately called; and, after a particular examination of evidence on the occasion, his Majesty immediately ordered his royal proclamation to be issued for the free importation of salted beef, salted pork, and butter from Ireland; at the same time offering a reward of one hundred pounds, for discovering any unlawful combinations in the sale of provisions; the high price of which had given occasion to some very serious disturbances at Plymouth, and in other parts of England, particularly in Derbyshire; where the colliers finding wheat one day in the market at eight shillings and four-pence the bushel, cleared the market at five shillings the bushel. In York, a considerable number of respectable gentlemen associated to raise a fund for the importation of corn from other counties, that the poor might be supplied with that necessary article at a reasonable price. But such an important object might, in all probability, have been obtained by an wholesome application of the laws, and a general exertion of the powers vested in magistrates to prevent monopolies, forestalling, and such illegal practices, as make an artificial dearth in the midst of real plenty.

The following bills, as they related, more or less, to commercial matters, should be noticed as having this year received the royal assent.

A bill to continue an act for allowing the free importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and grease, a further limited time from Ireland.

To amend an act of last sessions, for laying an additional duty on cyder and perry.

For granting a certain sum out of the sinking fund for the service of the year 1764.

For granting certain duties on goods in the British colonies, for the support of government; and for encouraging the trade to the sugar colonies, and the suppression of contraband trade.

For lessening the duty on the importation, and raising it on the exportation of beaver-skins.

For regulating pilots, &c.

For encouraging the manufacture of British sail-cloth.

For regulating buildings, and preventing fires.

For vesting the fort of Senegal and its dependencies in the African Company.

For ascertaining and regulating in what cases letters shall be sent or received free from the duty of postage.

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For charging on the sinking fund certain annuities, and for consolidating such of the said annuities as are granted for a certain term of years irredeemable.

For granting, for a limited time, liberty to carry rice from his Majesty's provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, to other parts of America, on paying British duties.

For raising money by loans or Exchequer bills.

For preventing frauds committed by bankrupts, &c.

For preventing inconveniencies arising in cases of merchants, and such other persons as are within the statutes of bankrupts, being entitled to privilege of Parliament, and becoming insolvent.

To encourage the cambrick manufacture in England.

For exporting salt from Europe to Quebec, for a limited time.

For granting a bounty on the importation of hemp, and rough and undressed flax, from his Majesty's colonies in America.

For enabling his Majesty, with the advice of his privy council, to order the free importation of provisions from Ireland during the next recess of Parliament, or as the necessity of the time may require.

For continuing several acts of Parliament, made for the encouragement of the whale fishery carried on by his Majesty's subjects, particularly that on the coast of America.

For establishing an agreement with the governor and company of the Bank of England, for raising certain sums of money for the service of the year 1764.

For preventing such paper bills of credit, as may hereafter be issued within any of his Majesty's colonies or plantations in America, from being made legal tender in payment of money.

As we gave, in the preceding year, an abstract of the act for laying duties on cyder, &c. we think it necessary to state, rather at large, the act which passed this session for explaining and amending it.

" It is thereby enacted, that from and after the fifth day of July 1764, the time limited by the former act for payment of the duties, shall be extended to six months.

" In lieu of the former composition, officers of excise are authorised to compound with private families, at the rate of two shillings per head, per annum, for each person of eight years old and upwards, in the lists delivered in to them; which composition shall be renewed annually; and in case of an increase in the family during the year, an additional list shall be given in, and two-pence per month paid for every person added during the subsisting unexpired term of such year. The compositions shall be applied as the duties: other parts of the former act relating to compositions, shall continue in force.

" Makers of cyder at other presses than their own, not being compounders, shall enter their names at the next office of excise, ten days previous to such making; together with the mills and owners thereof, and the cellars or storehouses for keeping such cyder, under a penalty for their using any unentered mill, storehouse, &c. twenty-five pounds. Officers of excise shall have free access to the said mills, storehouses, &c. in the day time, to gauge the cyder, &c. and to make and report the charge, leaving a copy with the maker; who shall pay the duty according to such charge.

" Proprietors of cyder mills, &c. so lent out, shall not be obliged to give notice thereof.

" Where the compounder intends to sell or dispose of cyder, &c. immediately from the mill, the officer shall deliver to him blank certificates and counterparts for the purpose, to be filled up occasionally, which shall protect the removal of such cyder. The counterpart shall be filled

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1764 filled up and signed at the same time with the certificates, and shall be returned to the officer, and a receipt shall be given him for the certificates. The certificates and counterparts not used, shall be produced when called for. The quantities sold and certified for, shall be verified on oath. Returns of the quantities disposed of, as aforesaid, shall be made by the officers of excise to the commissioners of excise, and the duties charged from the counterparts; a copy of which returns shall be left with the maker, who shall pay the duty accordingly within the six months from thence. A maker of cyder or perry not complying with these regulations, or being guilty of any fraud, shall forfeit twenty-five pounds. Certificates for the removal of cyder from the mill, shall be in force but between the first of September and thirteenth of December, yearly. Blank certificates and counterparts shall be delivered up within ten days after, on penalty of twenty-five pounds.

“The penalty of obstructing an officer in his duty, shall be fifty pounds. If any officer of excise shall refuse, or wilfully neglect to leave a true copy of his report in writing, or to grant a certificate for the removal of any cyder or perry, upon reasonable request made for that purpose, or if any maker of cyder or perry, authorised to compound, shall offer to make such composition, and if any such officer shall refuse or wilfully neglect to accept such composition, he shall for each refusal or neglect, forfeit and pay the sum of forty shillings.”

By the act relating to the British colonies, a duty of one pound two shillings is laid on foreign clayed sugars, instead of five shillings and six-pence; a duty of six-pence a pound on indigo, instead of two-pence; coffee two pounds nineteen shillings and nine-pence per hundred weight; Madeira wine seven pounds per ton; Port and Spanish wines ten shillings per ton; wrought silks, &c. and stuffs mixed with silks, &c. two shillings a piece; calicoes two shillings and six-pence a piece; cambrics three shillings; French lawns three shillings; coffee and pimento of the growth of the British colonies, coffee seven shillings per hundred weight, pimento two-pence a pound; foreign melasses and syrups three-pence a gallon, instead of six-pence, which was seldom paid. These duties are all to be paid into the Exchequer, and reserved for defraying the charges of protecting the British colonies in America.

The act for preventing frauds and abuses in relation to the sending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of postage, certainly merits a general recital. To raise this branch of the public revenue, by correcting its abuses, and bringing back the privilege of franking letters to its original design, was the object of this excellent law.

It appeared, on the examination of witnesses in the committee of the House of Commons, that the postage of franked letters amounted, one year with another, to 170,000*l*. And, among the various abuses of it, proof was given that franks were publicly sold at several of the coffee-houses in London. The preamble is as follows:

“Whereas, under colour of the privilege of sending and receiving post letters by members of Parliament, free from the duty of postage, many great and notorious frauds have been, and still are frequently practised, as well in derogation of the honour of Parliament, as to the detriment of the public revenue; divers persons having presumed to counterfeit the hand, and otherwise fraudulently to make use of the names of members of Parliament, upon letters and packets to be sent by the post, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of postage: and whereas the allowance of sending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of postage, heretofore granted to, or customarily exercised by certain persons, not being members of Parliament, in respect of their offices, has not been sufficiently confined to such letters and packets only as relate to the business of their respective offices; and may, therefore, if conti-

nued,

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1764 nued, without restrictions and limitations, be liable to great abuse: in order, therefore, to put the more effectual stop to these and the like frauds and abuses, and, at the same time, to ascertain, for the better guidance and direction of his Majesty's postmaster-general, and the officers to be employed under him, in the performance of their duty, by what persons only, and what regulations or restrictions, the privilege or allowance of sending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of postage, shall thenceforth be exercised and enjoyed, &c."

The principal clause of this act, which contains a variety of subordinate resolutions, enacted, "That no letters or packets shall be exempted from postage but such as shall be sent from or to the King; and such, not exceeding two ounces in weight, as shall be signed on the outside by a member of either house, and the whole of the superscription to be of such member's writing, or directed to a member at his usual residence, or place where he shall then be, or at the house, &c. of Parliament.

"Printed votes and proceedings in Parliament, and newspapers sent without covers, or in covers open at the ends, and signed on the outside by a member, or directed to a member, according to notice given by him to the postmaster-general."

These two clauses were properly inserted, that this act might not operate to the laying any restraint on such a profitable branch of revenue as the public newspapers, which it would otherwise have done.

"Any person forging the superscription of any letter or packet, &c. is adjudged guilty of felony; and the punishment of such offence, transportation for seven years."

It is scarce necessary to add, that a very considerable and immediate addition was made by this salutary law to the public revenue.

A debt contracted on account of the war still remained to be satisfied. This the ministry proposed to discharge to the amount of 2,000,000*l.* but at this moment there were 1,800,000*l.* in Exchequer bills, which were at such a discount, as to have no small effect on the state of public credit.

The Bank contract, however, being at this time in a state of renewal, the Treasury availed itself very prudently of such a favourable conjuncture, and stipulated that this body should take a million of these bills for two years, at an interest reduced by one-fourth; and, at the same time, should pay a fine on their renewal, of 100,000*l.* This was represented, at the time, and we believe with great truth, as the most beneficial contract ever made with a corporation, whose vast money trade is carried on upon the credit of government. For the remaining part of the Exchequer bills, new ones were struck.

Government brought forward to the national service 700,000*l.* the produce of the French prizes taken before the declaration of war, and which the King had graciously bestowed upon the public. The saving of the non-effective was also at last brought to account, to the amount of 140,000*l.*

With these resources, aided by the land-tax, which seemed now to be settled at four shillings in the pound, with the malt-tax, and two millions, being the overplus of the sinking fund, and some other particular savings, the before-mentioned debt of two millions was paid off, and an adequate provision made for the service of the ensuing year, in all its establishments and contingencies, the whole amounting to between seven and eight millions.

The employment of the overplus of the sinking fund was justified by the public exigency,—by former precedents,—but principally on the credit of its being augmented by near 400,000*l.*

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1764 in the single article of tea, from the wise measures which had been taken to prevent smuggling, and to enforce a strict and vigilant collection of the revenue.

Upon the whole, this scheme of ways and means, though it was very violently attacked by the party writers of the day, must be allowed to possess no inconsiderable merit. It was not attended by loan, taxes, or lottery; and if any little leaven of ministerial artifice is to be found in the business, the situation of the country, and the temper of the public, may be offered in justification of it.

The supplies granted by Parliament for the service of this year.

<i>December 5.</i> Granted to his Majesty for the marriage portion of her		£.	s.	d.
Royal Highness the Princess Augusta,	— —	80,000	0	0
For 16,000 seamen, including 4,287 marines,	— —	832,000	0	0
For land forces, including 2,739 invalids, amounting to 17,532 effective men; and for guards, garrisons, &c.	— —	617,704	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
For maintaining his Majesty's forces and garrisons in the Plantations, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c.	— — —	372,774	6	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
For the general and general staff officers in Great Britain,	— —	11,322	7	3
Upon account for the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces and marines,	— — — —	30,188	18	0
Upon account of reduced officers disbanded in 1763, and to be disbanded in 1764,	— — — —	125,455	13	0
For allowances to several officers, &c. of the two troops of horse guards and regiment of horse reduced, &c. &c.	— —	2,605	15	0
To defray the subsidies due to the Duke of Brunswick, pursuant to treaties,	— — — — —	43,901	3	7 $\frac{3}{8}$
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay, &c.	— —	398,568	11	9
For carrying on the building of four houses for the officers of the hospital at Plymouth,	— — — —	3,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hospital,	— —	10,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance,	— —	173,080	8	6
For services performed by the said office, not provided for by Parliament in 1763,	— — — —	52,359	8	1
To the building and repairs of his Majesty's ships,	— —	200,000	0	0
To enable his Majesty to satisfy certain navy and victualling bills,	— —	179,229	6	6
To the British Museum,	— —	2,000	0	0
To the commissioners for paving the streets of Westminster, &c.	— —	10,000	0	0
For discharging the Exchequer bills made out by virtue of an act passed last session, entitled, "An Act for raising a certain Sum of Money by Loans or Exchequer Bills for 1763, and for further appropriating," &c. and charged upon the first aids or supplies to be granted in this session,	— — — —	1,800,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the sum issued thereout, for the half year's payment due September 29th, 1763, on the annuities after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. granted in respect of certain navy, victualling,				

Carried over, 4,944,190 16 0 $\frac{1}{4}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,944,190	16	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
and transport bills, &c. delivered in and cancelled, pursuant to an act made in the last session,	—	—	—
	69,671	1	2
To replace to the sinking fund the sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency on July 5th, 1763, of the several rates and duties upon offices, pensions and houses, and upon windows and lights, which were made an act by the thirty-first of the reign of his Majesty, for paying annuities to the Bank of England, in respect of five millions borrowed towards the supply of 1758,	—	—	—
	41,223	1	6
To replace to the sinking fund the sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency on October 10th, 1763, of the several additional duties upon wines imported into this kingdom, and certain duties upon all cyder and perry, which were made a fund by an act of the late session, for paying annuities, in respect of 3,500,000l. borrowed towards the supply of 1763,	—	—	—
	36,699	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
To make good to his Majesty certain sums, which have been advanced by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of this House,	7,350	0	0
For the extraordinary expences of his Majesty's land forces, and other services, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	—	—	—
	823,876	12	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto,	—	—	—
	102,469	19	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto,	—	—	—
	61,088	4	0
On account of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital,	—	—	—
	103,794	2	0
To make good a deficiency in the sum voted last session, upon account of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital for 1763,	—	—	—
	18,331	17	11
For paying pensions to certain widows of reduced officers of land forces and marines, &c.	—	—	—
	1,696	0	0
Upon account, for the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	—	—	—
	5,703	14	11
Upon account, for the charges of the civil establishment of Georgia, &c.	—	—	—
	4,031	8	8
Upon account, for the charges of the civil establishment of East Florida,	—	—	—
	5,700	0	0
Ditto, West Florida,	—	—	—
	5,700	0	0
Upon account, for the expence of general surveys of his Majesty's dominions in North America,	—	—	—
	1,818	9	0
To be applied towards encouraging and enabling John Blake, Esq. further to carry into execution the plan concerted by him, for the better supplying the cities of London and Westminster with fish at moderate rates,	—	—	—
	2,500	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	—	—	—
	650,000	0	6
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of 1763,	—	—	—
	129,489	0	3
For paying a bounty to certain chaplains of the navy,	—	—	—
	1,231	17	6
To enable the commissioners appointed by an act of the second year of the present reign, to make compensation to the owners of certain lands in Kent, Suffex, and Southampton, &c. &c.	—	—	—
	545	15	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	—	—	—
	80,000	0	0
Carried over,	7,097,111	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	7,097,111	15	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
To make good the interest of the several principal sums, to be paid in pursuance of the said act of the second year of the present reign,	—	103	13 9 $\frac{1}{4}$
To the Foundling Hospital,	—	38,347	10 0
For maintaining forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	—	20,000	0 0
To enable his Majesty to make good to Samuel Touchet, of London, merchant, all the expence he has incurred in fitting out several vessels, employed in the late successful expedition for the reduction of the French forts and settlements in the river Senegal, and to satisfy to him all claims and demands whatsoever, on the commissioners of his Majesty's navy, or on any officer or officers, employed in the said expedition, for such of the said vessels as were lost or taken into his Majesty's service,	—	7,000	0 0
Upon account, towards discharging unsatisfied claims for expences incurred during the late war in Germany,	—	329,093	17 4
That the sum of 170,906l. 2s. 8d. arising from certain savings made upon the non-effective accounts of several regiments, &c. be granted towards discharging unsatisfied claims, &c. during the late war in Germany,	—	170,906	2 8
To the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, pursuant to treaty,	—	50,000	0 0
Sum total of the supplies granted this session,	—	7,712,562	19 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Ways and means for raising the above supply granted to his Majesty, viz.

DECEMBER 8.

The duties on malt, &c. to be continued to June 24, 1765, 750,000l.

A land tax of 4s. in the pound to be raised, in the usual manner, for one year, from March 25, 1764, 2,037,854l. 19s. 11d.

FEBRUARY 6.

All persons entitled to such of the bills payable in course of the navy or victualling offices, or for transports, made out on or before December 31, 1762, as have not been converted into annuities, after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. (after having had the interest, due thereupon to March 25, 1763, inclusive, computed) shall be entitled to an annuity, transferable at the Bank of England, for the principal and interest due on the said bills, after the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann. commencing from March 25, 1763, in lieu of all other interest, until redeemed by Parliament.

FEBRUARY 9.

That the proposal of the Bank, for advancing the sum of 1,000,000 on Exchequer bills, and for paying the sum of 110,000l. into the Exchequer, be accepted, 1,110,000l.

FEBRUARY 21.

That the act of the ninth of George II. chap. 37. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.
That the act of the fourth of George II. chap. 29. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.
That so much of an act of the eighth of George I. chap. 12. as relates to the importation of wood, timber and lumber from any of his Majesty's colonies in America, free from all customs whatsoever, is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

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MARCH 10.

That a duty of 2l. 19s. 9d. per hundred weight, averdupois, be laid on all foreign coffee, imported from any place, except Great Britain, into the British colonies or plantations in America. That a duty of 6d. per lb. be laid on all foreign indigo, imported into the said colonies. That a duty of 7l. sterling per tun, be laid on all wine of the growth of the Madeiras, or any other place, imported into the said colonies. That a duty of 10s. sterling per tun, be laid on all Portugal, Spanish, or any other wine, except French, imported from Great Britain into the said colonies. That a duty of 2s. sterling per lb. be laid on all wrought silks, Bengals, and stuffs mixed with silk or herba, of the manufacture of Persia, China, or East India, imported from Great Britain into the said colonies. That a duty of 2s. 6d. sterling per piece, be laid on all callicoes, painted, dyed, printed, or stained, in Persia, China or East India, imported from Great Britain into the said colonies. That a duty of 3s. sterling per piece, be laid on all foreign cambrick and French lawns imported from Great Britain into the said colonies. That a duty of 7s. sterling per cwt. be laid on all coffee, shipped in any British colony in America, in order to be exported or conveyed to any other place, except to Great Britain. That a duty of one halfpenny, sterling, per lb. be laid on all pimento shipped in any British colony in America, in order to be exported to any other place except Great Britain. That an act of the sixth of George II. chap. 13. be continued until September 30, 1764. That the said act be, with the amendments, made perpetual, from September 29, 1764. That, after September 29, 1764, in lieu of the duty granted by the said act upon melasses and syrups, a duty of 3d. sterling per gallon, be laid on all melasses and syrups of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign American colony, imported into the British colonies in America. That the produce of all the said duties, and also of the duties which shall, from and after September 29, 1764, be raised, by virtue of the said act, be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer, and there reserved, to be from time to time disposed of by Parliament, towards defraying the necessary expences of defending, protecting, and securing, the British colonies in America. That, towards further defraying the said expences, it may be proper to charge certain stamp duties in the said colonies. That there be not any drawback allowed of any part of the rate or duty of the old subsidy on any foreign goods, except wines, of the growth, product, or manufacture of Europe, or the East Indies, exported from this kingdom to the British colonies in America. That no drawback be allowed of any part of any rate or duty upon white callicoes, or foreign linens, exported from this kingdom to the British colonies in America. That the duties imposed in the British colonies in America, by an act of the twenty-fifth of Charles II. entitled, "An Act for the encouragement of the Greenland and Eastland Trades, and for the better securing the Plantation Trade," be declared to be sterling money. That the importation of rum and spirits, of the produce or manufacture of any foreign American colony, into the British colonies in America, be prohibited. That the annuities, granted in 1761, for a certain term of 99 years, from January 5, 1761, transferable at the Bank of England, be, from January 5, 1764, with the consent of the several proprietors, added to, and made a joint stock with, the annuities which were granted in 1762, for a certain term of 98 years, from January 5, 1762, transferable at the Bank of England; and that the charges and expences thereof be paid out of the sinking fund, in the same manner as those of the said annuities granted in 1762, are paid and payable; and such persons as shall not, on or before June 1, 1764, signify their dissent, in books to be opened at the Bank of England for that purpose, shall be deemed and taken to assent thereto.

That

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1764 That the 3 per cent. annuities, granted in 1761, in respect of the sum of 12,000,000 borrowed towards the supply of the year 1761, together with the charges and expences attending the same, be, with the like consent of the several proprietors thereof, charged upon, and made payable out of the sinking fund. That all the monies that have arisen since January 5, 1764, or may hereafter arise, of the produce of the additional duty on strong beer and ale, which was made a fund for payment of the 3 per cent. annuities, granted in respect of the sum of 12,000,000 borrowed by virtue of an act of the first of George III. towards the supply of the year 1761, and also of the annuities for a certain term of 99 years, granted in respect of the same sum, be made part of the sinking fund. That, towards raising the supply granted to his Majesty, there be issued and applied the sum of two millions, out of such monies as shall arise of the surplusses, excesses, or overplus monies, and other revenues, composing the sinking fund, 2,000,000*l*.

MARCH 13.

That an additional duty of *il*. 2*s*. sterling, per cwt. averdupois, be laid on all white or clayed sugars, of the produce or manufacture of any foreign American colony, imported into any British colony in America. That the produce of the said additional duty be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer, and there reserved, to be, from time to time, disposed of by Parliament, towards defraying the necessary expences of defending, protecting, and securing the British colonies in America. That upon all wines, except French, exported as merchandize, from this kingdom to the British colonies in America, a drawback be allowed of all the duties paid on the importation of such wines, except 3*l*. 10*s*. per tun, part of the additional duty of 4*l*. per tun, granted by an act made in the last session of Parliament; and also except such part of the duties paid upon wines, imported by strangers or aliens, or in foreign ships, as exceeds what would have been payable upon such wines, if the same had been imported by British subjects, and in British ships. That no allowance be made for leakage, upon the importation of any wines into this kingdom, unless such wines be imported directly from the place of their growth, or from the usual place of their first shipping, except only Madeira wines, imported from any of the British colonies in America, or from the East Indies. That any person, or persons, be permitted to import, in ships belonging to his Majesty's subjects, whale fins, taken from whales caught, by any of his Majesty's subjects, in the gulph or river of St. Lawrence, or in any seas on the coasts of any of his Majesty's colonies in America, without paying any custom, subsidy, or duty for the same, except the rate or duty of the old subsidy, for the term of seven years, from December 25, 1763.

MARCH 15.

That the duties now payable on beaver skins imported into Great Britain, from his Majesty's dominions in America, do cease; and that there be granted to his Majesty in lieu thereof, a duty of 7*d*. on each beaver skin exported from Great Britain. That there be granted to his Majesty a duty of 1*s*. 6*d*. per lb. for all beaver wool exported from Great Britain. That the said duties be made applicable to the same purposes, to which the former duties upon beaver skins were applied. That no drawback be allowed upon beaver skins exported from Great Britain.

MARCH 22.

That there be raised by loans or Exchequer bills, to be charged upon the first aids to be granted in the next session, and such Exchequer bills, if not discharged, with interest thereupon, on or before April 5, 1765, to be exchanged and received in payment in the usual manner,

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1764 the sum of 800,000*l.* That the sum of 3,497*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.* remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer, being the surplus of the several duties upon beer and ale, granted by an act of the first of his Majesty's reign, be issued and applied towards making good the supply granted in this session. That such part of the sum of 150,000*l.* granted in the last session for defraying the charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning March 25, 1763, as shall remain in the receipt of the Exchequer, after the said charge is satisfied, be issued and applied towards raising the supply granted in this session. That the act of the fifth of George the Second, chap. 28. is near expiring, and fit to be continued. That the act of the sixth of George II. chap. 33. is near expiring, and fit to be continued. That the act of the twenty-second of George II. chap. 45. is near expiring, and fit to be continued.

RECAPITULATION.

By the two resolutions of December 8.	—	—	2,787,854	19	11
By the resolution of February 9.	—	—	1,110,000	0	0
By the twenty-second resolution of March 10.	—	—	2,000,000	0	0
By the first and second resolutions of March 2.	—	—	803,497	9	9
To which if we add, first, the liquidated provisions made by the committee of supply, as follows:					
By the sixth and seventh resolutions of March 1.	—	—	163,558	3	3 ⁹ / ₁₁
By the second resolution of April 7.	—	—	170,906	2	8
Secondly, The net produce of the French prizes taken before the declaration of war, and vested in the crown, but graciously given up by his Majesty for the service of the public,	—	—	723,758	0	0
Sum total of the liquidated provisions will be	—	—	7,759,574	15	7 ⁹ / ₁₁
Excess of provisions,	—	—	47,011	17	0 ² / ₃

A general account of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out January 5, 1764, with the annual interest, &c.

ary 5, 1764, with the annual interest, &c.	<i>Principal Debt.</i>			<i>Annual Interest, &c.</i>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer, — —	2,021,981	12	9½	153,164	4	8
East India Company, —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, —	96,239,498	3	¾	3,238,789	5	5½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as also on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the subscribers to the loan of 12,000,000 <i>l.</i> granted for the service of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England,						
South Sea Company, —	27,125,309	13	11½	339,979	9	9
				829,507	14	1½
Total,	129,586,789	10	¼	4,689,128	2	0

* The land taxes and duties on malt, being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000*l.* charged on the deduction of 6*d.* per pound on pensions, nor the sum of 1,800,000*l.* charged on the surplus, in the year 1764.

IMPORTS

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1764

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1763, to CHRISTMAS 1764.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 35,738 9 2	£. 464,878 14 2
Canaries, — — —	3,158 10 7	31,867 10 2
Denmark and Norway, — — —	85,027 9 6	141,534 5 5
East Country, — — —	224,499 8 1	290,331 6 9
East India, — — —	1,182,844 18 6	1,165,600 12 4
Flanders, — — —	145,772 2 3	546,777 16 10
France, — — —	95,430 19 11	208,765 14 8
Germany, — — —	606,410 1 2	2,379,315 3 9
Greenland, — — —	7,936 17 —	— — —
Holland, — — —	371,730 2 2	2,040,467 9 9
Ireland, — — —	777,412 19 8	1,634,382 1 8
Italy, — — —	810,902 9 5	754,446 4 2
Madeiras, — — —	5,792 9 3	40,152 12 6
Portugal, — — —	312,974 8 5	1,244,198 6 7
Russia, — — —	920,293 12 3	67,952 8 6
Spain, — — —	503,489 6 4	1,318,345 4 11
Streights, — — —	32,271 4 11	120,574 9 7
Sweden, — — —	253,280 1 11	28,351 4 7
Turkey, — — —	191,565 16 —	70,008 16 11
Venice, — — —	54,992 10 5	9,952 11 10
British and Irish linens per bounty, — — —	— — —	24,863 9 2
Alderney, — — —	173 10 1	1,104 3 2
Belle-Isle, — — —	4 6	— — —
Guernsey, — — —	27,075 15 11	34,064 19 4
Jersey, — — —	18,282 0 5	19,353 1 1
Antigua, — — —	307,392 6 8	63,136 10 10
Barbadoes, — — —	300,213 17 3	181,710 11 3
Bermudas, — — —	165 11 1	10,534 3 7
Canada, — — —	44,669 9 5	251,385 12 6
Carolina, — — —	341,727 12 7	305,808 1 6
Dominica, — — —	31,894 6 2	16,415 12 6
Florida, — — —	294 3 4	15,004 15 7
Georgia, — — —	31,325 9 4	18,338 2 11
Granades, — — —	206,889 13 6	65,935 3 9
Guadaloupe, — — —	33,551 17 —	— — —
Havannah, — — —	5,735 8 —	— — —
Hudson's Bay, — — —	9,272 9 2	3,892 11 2
Jamaica, — — —	1,076,155 1 9	456,528 1 11
Martinico, — — —	3,169 6 8	— — —
Montserrat, — — —	82,966 15 —	7,532 8 9
Nevis, — — —	60,952 11 2	7,934 16 5
New England, — — —	88,157 1 9	459,765 — 11
Newfoundland, — — —	30,354 2 4	72,588 6 3
New Providence, — — —	4,436 6 7	2,808 6 9
New York, — — —	53,697 10 4	515,416 12 1
Nova Scotia, — — —	32 10 3	15,434 17 —
Pennsylvania, — — —	36,258 18 1	435,191 14 —
St. Croix, — — —	8,681 12 6	6,625 16 10
St. John's Island, — — —	80 17 2	— — —
St. Kitt's, — — —	283,842 4 1	98,321 8 2
St. Eustatia, — — —	917 — 10	— — —
St. Vincent, — — —	— — —	971 15 2
Tortola, — — —	41,549 1 11	2,485 1 —
Tobago, — — —	— — —	349 8 5
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	559,408 16 1	515,192 10 6
Spanish West Indies, — — —	9,398 11 3	— — —
Foreign coin and bullion, — — —	— — —	310,024 19 6
Prize goods, — — —	44,361 5 2	35,782 19 2
Totals,	10,364,307 12 3	16,512,403 16 3

Exports exceed the Imports,

H 2

6,148,096 4 0

On

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1764

On the 28th day of August died, Sir John Barnard, Knight, Alderman and Father of the city of London, which he had represented in six successive Parliaments. His assiduity as a magistrate, his abilities as a senator, and his integrity as a man, rendered him one of the most respectable and popular characters of the times in which he lived. As a testimony of public gratitude for the great services he rendered to the trade of his country, the merchants of London caused his statue to be erected, during his life, on the Royal Exchange; a solid honour which envy never attempted to mutilate, and party spirit never wished to remove. These pages, devoted to record the annals of British commerce, would surely have been very deficient, if they had neglected to mention the name and honours of this great commercial character.

Extract from the general bill of all the christenings and burials within the city of London, from December 13, 1763, to December 11, 1764.

Christened, Males,	8,593	Buried, Males,	11,503
Females,	8,208	Females,	11,699
	16,801		23,202

Amsterdam, died, 8,585; born, 5,896.

Brunswick, died, 970; born, 1,219; marriages, 361.

Denmark, died, 27,167; born, 25,756.

Norway, died, 19,386; born 21,236.

The dutchies of Sleswick and Holstein, lordships of Pinnenberg, and the city of Altena, died, 11,865; born 13,159.

Dresden, died, 1,460; born, 1,842; marriages, 445.

Drontheim, died, 4,128; born, 5,045.

Dublin, died, 2,307; born, 1,999.

Francfort on the Maine, died, 983; baptized, 922; marriages, 218.

Haerlem, died, 910; born, 880.

Hague, died, 1,113.

Hannau, died, 430; born, 457; marriages, 145.

Leipsick, died in the city, 479; in the suburbs, 520; born, 974; marriages, 377.

Ratisbon, of the Protestant congregation died, 260; born, 227; marriages, 67.

Rotterdam, died, 1,735; marriages, 155.

Paris, died, 17,199; born, 19,404; marriages, 4,838; foundling children, 5,560.

Chester, from January 1, 1764, to January 1, 1765, died, 452; christened, 383; marriages, 149.

Manchester and Salford, died, 754; born, 886; marriages, 447.

We shall conclude this year with observing, that the House of Commons passed a vote, that it was just and requisite to establish stamp duties in America, similar to those already settled in Great Britain, towards defraying the expences necessary for the protection of the colonies. This was the first, though unsuspected step to that scene of domestic discontent, which ended in a war the most important that ever employed the arms of Great Britain.

1765 The act for imposing a tax on stamps in America, which was the parliamentary offspring of this year, will be, of course, a principal object of our attention in relating the events of it; and though

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1765 though it is a subject which has been so minutely considered by the national mind, yet as its consequences will form such a very considerable feature in this work, we should be naturally considered as very deficient, if we were entirely to pass over, in this place, the circumstances which led to, and accompanied the enactment of it.

No war was ever terminated with greater glory than that which Great Britain carried on against the combined powers of France and Spain, and was concluded by the treaty of Paris, in 1763. The power and energy of the British nation had been conducted by the greatest minister, perhaps, that ever guided the councils of any empire; and partaking, as it were, of his active, unconquerable spirit, commanded that succession of victories, both by sea and land, in every part of the globe, which made Europe tremble with astonishment, and dissipated the boasted strength of the house of Bourbon.

At length the peace of 1763 put a final period to this memorable war; and Great Britain became possessed of the immense continent of North America, from the banks of the Mississippi to the shores of Greenland. She acquired several valuable islands in the West Indies, and established herself in the oriental world with such augmented possession and added strength, as to possess a decided superiority over all other European nations who carry on any commerce, and possess any settlements in those distant countries.

But while the eye of patriotism gazed with peculiar delight on this splendid scene of British glory, the pervading spirit of political prophecy was not backward in imparting its apprehensions of that mischief which has since arisen from it.

The entire cession of the French possessions in North America, was a subject of trembling expectation in the minds of many who were, by no means, in the habit of employing their reason in idle speculations. While this vast extent of country remained in the possession of France, it certainly operated as a powerful restraint upon the colonies, and by keeping them in perpetual alarms, obliged them to have continual recourse to the parent state for aid and protection. The acquisition therefore of Canada, &c. by freeing the British North American colonies from all apprehensions on that dangerous quarter, afforded them a security which they had never known; and, of course, gave leisure for the progress of those ideas, which otherwise might indeed have occasionally risen into existence, but would never have attained to any degree of maturity.

While France possessed this ceded territory, she must, in the most confidential moments of peace, have been considered, from her American position, exclusive of all other circumstances, as a natural enemy to British America; and while that idea remained, the connection between Great Britain and her Colonies must have subsisted. The one would have wanted protection, and the other would have required obedience; and these reciprocal obligations would have preserved their union unbroken in every circumstance of it.

Thus the conclusion of the war between Great Britain and France, placed the North American colonies in a situation of advantage which they had never before known, and gave them an unexperienced opportunity to exert all that natural vigour which they have since manifested. That they should now begin to feel their consequence, was a matter of natural expectation; and that the wish to realize it, in some degree, by enlarging their privileges, or pressing a little on what might be considered as the exuberance of parental authority, should be encouraged among them, was the result of their prosperous and powerful condition.

The

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1765

The advantages which the Americans possessed were numerous; nor did they want a spirit to add to the number of them. Their interior trade, as well as external commerce, was greatly increased; their population augmented, their agriculture extended, and their knowledge enlarged. While they possessed frugality and industry, those two leading principles of private and public prosperity, they could boast an ardent, but well-directed spirit of commercial enterprise; and though they declared a most faithful attachment to Great Britain, and had manifested, on all occasions, a dutiful obedience to its government, yet the republican spirit which had led their ancestors to the American deserts, was preserved amongst them with a traditional devotion, particularly in the New England provinces, and remained a latent principle of action, ready to break forth whenever any events should take place which might encourage its exertion. Nor is it a matter of dubious relation, that to attain a state of political independence, was a favourite, as it had been a constant hope, with many persons of character and influence, from the earliest times of their colonization, till it was universally adopted in that contest which obtained it for them.

But this was not all:—The French, long before the commencement of the war in 1756, gave very unequivocal proofs of their desire to effect a separation between England and its North American colonies; and when that war had finally deprived them of all expectation of gaining any point by the power of their arms, they began to practise those intrigues, and employ those artifices, which have so often served that treacherous nation with better effect than more honourable exertions. They employed their secret, but active emissaries, to disseminate such opinions as were best calculated to raise the political importance of America in the opinion of its inhabitants, and to dispose them to look with a jealous eye on the regulating power of the mother country. Such arts were practised with perseverance and with success.

The nations of Europe were also growing into what might be considered, by the impartial politician, as a reasonable jealousy of the amazing power of Great Britain, and would have rejoiced to see a limb broken off from that colossal greatness of our country which seemed to bestride the globe.

At this time, therefore, and when all these circumstances were evident to the most common observation, it was surely the true policy of Great Britain to have employed the most temperate measures in her government of the American colonies; and it was at this moment that she began to exercise her power, though not indeed without consideration; for the minister of that period was not in the habit of committing rash actions.

Mr. Grenville possessed an uncommon spirit of industry, great financial knowledge, and unimpeached integrity: but with these, and other eminent qualities, there was a contraction of mind in his character, that was much better suited to the detail of an inferior department than the conduct of a great empire. He felt the weight of debt, amounting at this time to one hundred and forty-eight millions, which oppressed his country, and he looked to the melioration of the revenues as the only mode of relieving it. He was right in principle, but wrong in practice.—He had studied the public revenues with a professional assiduity, and professional ideas seemed to mingle in all his regulations concerning them. The methods which were now adopted to prevent smuggling, might not have been attended with any unpleasant consequences, if they had been confined to the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland; but by extending them to the shores of America, they interrupted a commerce, which though not strictly legal, was extremely advantageous to the colonies. They were therefore in a state of no common discontent on account of the acts of the British Parliament which added to their restraints,

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1765 when the stamp act appeared to heighten their resentment, and raise a kind of private displeasure into public remonstrance and general opposition.

A number of armed cutters were stationed around the coasts of Great Britain, and the most rigid orders were issued to the commanders of them to act in the capacity of revenue officers. They were enjoined to take the usual custom-house oaths, and to observe the regulations prescribed by them. Thus was the distinguished character of a British naval officer degraded by the employments of a tide-waiter, and that active, zealous courage which had been accustomed to the conquest of an enemy, was now to be exerted in opposing a contraband trade, and to find a reward in the seizure of prohibited commodities.

The clamour against these measures was loud in England; but in America the discontent on the occasion was little short of outrage. As naval gentlemen, the commanders of these vessels were not conversant in the duties of revenue collection, they were therefore oftentimes guilty of oppression: remedies were indeed at hand in England; but as the Lords of the Admiralty or the Treasury could alone rectify any errors, check any violence, punish any injustice, or restore any violated property, it was always extremely difficult, and in many cases almost impracticable, for the Americans to obtain redress.

But bad as this evil was, there arose one, from the same source, which was still worse.—A trade had been carried on for more than a century between the British and Spanish colonies in the new world, to the great advantage of both, but especially the former, as well as of the mother country; the chief materials of it being on the side of the British colonies, British manufactures, or such of their own produce as enabled them to purchase British manufactures for their own consumption; and, on the part of the Spaniards, gold and silver in bullion and coin, cochineal, and medicinal drugs, beside live stock and mules; which, in the West India plantations, to which places alone these last articles were carried, from their great utility, justly deserved to be considered of equal importance with the most precious metals.

This trade did not clash with the spirit of any act of Parliament made for the regulation of the British plantation trade; or, at least with that spirit of trade which universally prevails in our commercial acts: but it was found to vary sufficiently from the letter of the former, to give the new revenue officers a plea for doing that from principles of duty, which there were no small temptations to do from the more powerful motives of interest. Accordingly, they seized, indiscriminately, all the ships upon that trade, both of subjects and foreigners; which the custom-house officers stationed on shore, either through fear of the inhabitants, a more just way of thinking, or an happy ignorance, had always permitted to pass unnoticed.

As the advantage of this commerce was very much in favour of Great Britain, the Spanish monarchy had always opposed it: guarda-costas were commissioned to scour the coasts of her American dominions, and to seize every vessel which approached too near them; a duty which they had exercised with such general licence, as to provoke the war which broke out in 1739. The British cruisers seemed to act at this time with the same spirit in destroying this commerce, so that in a short space of time it was almost wholly annihilated.

This circumstance was to the northern colonies a deprivation of the most serious nature.—This traffic had long proved the mine from whence they drew those supplies of gold and silver that enabled them to make copious remittances to England, and to provide a sufficiency of current specie at home. A sudden stop being thus put to such a source of advantage, the Americans expressed the injury they sustained in the harshest terms that a sense of injury could inspire. But in spite of all complaints, the ministry continued to proceed in their unfortunate career,

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1765 career, and measures equally offensive to the inhabitants of the North American colonies continued to be successively adopted.

Besides this trade carried on between the British colonies in general, especially those in the West Indies, and the Spanish, there had for a long time subsisted one equally extensive between the British North American colonies in particular, and those of the French West Indies, to the great advantage of both, as it consisted chiefly in such goods as must otherwise have remained upon the hands of the possessors; so that it united, in the strictest sense, all those benefits which liberal minds include in the idea of a well regulated commerce, as tending, in the highest degree, to the mutual welfare of those who were concerned in it.

In these benefits the respective mother countries had, without doubt, a very large share, though it may be impossible to determine which, upon the whole, had the most. We had enough to engage those in power to think it worth connivance, for it certainly was not strictly to law, in consideration of the vast quantity of manufactures it enabled our American colonies to take from us; and this also, in spite of all the clamours which those concerned in our West India trade and possessions could raise against it, as enabling the French to undersell them in West India produce at the foreign markets. This outcry might indeed be found to arise, in a great measure, from another consideration, which it was not so proper for these gentlemen to avow, that of their not getting so good a price as otherwise they might expect, for such part of their produce as they sold in the markets of their mother country; and which, considering the vast demand for it, even by the poor, to whom, from long habit, it is become one of the chief necessities of life, it would have favoured of oppression if it had been permitted to advance in price. But, be that as it may, this trade was suffered to be carried on in the late war between Great Britain and France; directly, by means of flags of truce; and indirectly, through the Dutch and Danish islands; and afterwards through the Spanish port of Monte Christi, in the island of Hispaniola; till, at last, the vast advantages the French received from it above what the English could expect, in consequence of our having, in a manner, laid siege to all their West India islands, determined government to put a stop to it.

In doing this, however, they did not think proper to consider it so much in the light of a contraband trade, as in that of a treasonable practice, by supplying the enemy with necessities, without which it would have been impossible for these valuable islands to hold out so long against our attempts to reduce them. Accordingly, as soon as the conclusion of the war had taken the appellation of treason from this trade, it returned again to its pristine, flourishing condition; and thus it remained, till it sunk beneath the same blow with the trade between us and the Spaniards, whose history we have already related.

This trade not only prevented our North American colonies from being drained of their current cash, by the calls of the mother country upon them, but added greatly to it, so as to make it, in some measure, keep pace with their domestic trade, which could not but greatly increase in proportion to the remarkable increase of mankind in a part of the world, where the cheapness of land determines so great a part of the inhabitants to the exercise of the rural arts, which are known to be so favourable to population.

Though the suppression of that trade which we have just been relating, instead of barely interrupting these supplies of the necessities and conveniencies of life, which the North American colonies were before accustomed to receive in return for their superfluities and incumbrances, tended visibly, by obstructing their internal commerce, to deprive them, in a great degree, even of those blessings, the sources of which lay within themselves; yet a law was made

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1765 made in the beginning of the last year, which, whilst it rendered legal, in some respects, their intercourse with the other European colonies in the new world, loaded the best part of it with duties so far above its strength to bear, as to render it contraband to all intents and purposes. Besides, it ordered the money arising from these duties to be paid, and in specie, into the British Exchequer, to the entire draining of the little ready money which might be still remaining in the colonies; and within a fortnight after, another law was passed to hinder the colonies from supplying the demand of money for their internal wants, by preventing such paper bills of credit as might be afterwards in them, from being made legal tender in payment; and the legal tender of such bills as were actually subsisting, from being prolonged beyond the periods already limited for calling in and sinking the same.

These new regulations following each other so rapidly, produced an equal degree of surprize and discontent among the people of North America. Warm and spirited remonstrances were sent to England on the occasion. Among other arguments they alleged, that such restraints upon their trade were absolutely ruinous, as they tended to put an end to the clearing of their lands, and damped the prosecution of their fisheries. They also asserted, that unless those foreign ports where they deposited the surplus of their corn, and of the provisions of all kinds with which their country abounded, were freely opened to them, they knew not whither to carry them. The British islands in the West Indies were not equal to their consumption, and Great Britain did not want them: it was absolutely necessary, therefore, that some places for the disposal of them should be permitted, where they might fetch a reasonable price.

But such remonstrances, though founded in national policy, were not regarded, and the Americans became determined to unite in a general opposition to the views of the British ministry. Public meetings were held, and resolutions were entered into, to make no further importations from Great Britain but such as unavoidable necessity required; and to encourage, to the utmost of their power, every kind of manufacture that was practicable among themselves. These resolutions were steadily observed in America, and their effects were seriously felt in England: the manufacturers began to express their alarms; and ministers found that trans-Atlantic discontents were re-echoed in their own streets.

It is indeed proper to observe, that all the money arising from the above duties, was to be reserved for defraying the charges of protecting the colonies on which it was levied; and that, at the same time, with the law for restraining the increase of paper money, several new laws were made to encrease and encourage, as well as regulate, the commercial intercourse of our North American colonies with the mother country: such as a bill for granting leave, for a limited time, for carrying rice from the provinces of South Carolina and Georgia to other parts of America, on paying British duties; a bill for granting a bounty on the importation of hemp, as well as rough and undressed flax, from the American colonies to Great Britain; and a bill to encourage the whale-fishery on their coasts. But, unfortunately, the effects of all these laws to restrain the foreign, and cramp the domestic trade of the colonies, were certain and instantaneous; whereas the effects of the laws made for their benefit, which might compensate, in some degree, for these evils, was, if not uncertain, at least remote.

The minister, from whose honest, but mistaken intentions to serve his country, proceeded all the regulations and laws relating to the British colonies which we have already mentioned, thought it right that a measure of so much importance and novelty as the passing a law to levy a tax in North America, should not be brought forward without giving the colonies who were to pay the tax, and the members of both Houses, who were to join in passing the act, sufficient

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1765 opportunity to make it an object of deliberate consideration. He had also another reason for postponing all further proceedings upon the resolution of last session, for imposing a stamp duty in America, which was to give the colonies time to offer a compensation for the revenue such a tax might produce. But this conduct in the minister, which was represented by many as a rare example of political moderation and candour, did not receive such a favourable interpretation from the colonies who were the objects of it. They seemed to consider it as an affront rather than a compliment; and instead of offering a compensation for the proposed duty, some of them transmitted petitions to be presented to the King, Lords, and Commons, positively and directly questioning the authority and jurisdiction of Parliament over their properties.

The vote, indeed, concerning the propriety of laying a stamp duty on the colonies, passed the lower House of Parliament, in the preceding session, without interruption; but the final completion of the object of that vote, in passing it into a law, was attended with very serious and able debates, both as to the right of the British legislature to tax the colonies without their concurrence; and, supposing that right to exist, the expediency of exercising it for the purpose in agitation. The bill, however, made its way through both Houses, under the sanction of great majorities; and, at last, his Majesty being indisposed, received the royal assent by commission on the 22d of March.

Besides the clause in this bill which enacted, that the money arising from the duties imposed by it should be reserved for defraying the charge of protecting the colonies, there passed another bill to encourage the importation of all kinds of timber from them; which, considering how plentiful that article is in most parts of North America, might, in some places, compensate for the operations of the stamp duty; at least much more so than the douceurs allowed in the preceding session could counteract the effects of the import and export duties laid on at the same time. But the colonies were too much soured to be brought, at present, to any moderate degree of temper, but by an immediate removal of the principal grievance. For no sooner did the news of the stamp act having received the royal assent arrive in America, than the anxiety of fearful expectation turned to fury, and broke out into action in every part of that continent. Boston, the capital of New England, where this afflicting intelligence, very unfortunately, first arrived, expressed its resentment in a manner perfectly conformable to its republican character, and offered an example of outrageous opposition to the rest of the colonies: the colours of the shipping in the harbour were displayed half-mast high, in token of the deepest mourning,—the bells rang muffled,—the act itself was printed with the decoration of a death's-head, and cried publicly about the streets, by the title of “The Folly of England, and the Ruin of America.”

These first effusions of rage and resentment were followed by a series of the most severe attacks from the public papers. The act itself was treated with the most ignominious contempt; it was publicly committed to the flames, in several places, by the enraged populace, together with the effigies of such as were imagined to have been the principal promoters of it.

While the lower classes perpetrated every kind of outrage, the higher order of people did not interfere to obstruct them. They saw, perhaps, with secret satisfaction, how well they could be supported in the determination they had formed to resist the designs of Great Britain. Even the assemblies themselves connived, in fact, at these tumultuous proceedings, by declining to assist their governors, and other officers invested with lawful authority, either with their advice or countenance. They left them to act singly, as they might think proper, without giving themselves

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1765 selves any concern about the riots, the persons who excited them, or those who suffered in consequence of them.

When the account of this state of American discontent was received in England, several masters of ships refused to take any stamps on board for the colonies, and it soon appeared that their precaution was well-founded; for such as ventured to take them, had great reason to repent it, on arriving at their destined ports; where, to save their vessels from fire, and themselves from the gallows, most of them were obliged to surrender their execrated cargoes into the hands of the enraged multitude, to be treated in the same ignominious manner in which the act itself had been treated; while the rest were glad to take shelter under the guns of such of the King's ships as happened to be at hand to protect them.

Those gentlemen who came from England with commissions to act as distributors, fared still worse: in short, the temper of all ranks of people against this act was as violent as it was universal. The assemblies themselves, from being silent spectators of these popular commotions, became at length the principal actors in the important scenes that followed.

Encouraged by what they saw, and what they daily heard from all parts of the continent, they soon avowed their sentiments in the face of the world, and openly declared that the authority assumed over North America was illegal, and that Great Britain had no right to impose taxes upon them without their free consent.

In these resolutions the concurrence of the colonies was universal: though they differed in a variety of essential points, both civil and religious, there was no dissenting voice among them in their opposition to the designs of the British ministry.

On the 29th of May, Virginia took the lead, and began the work of an unreserved denial to the requisitions of the mother country.

On the 8th of June, Massachusetts Bay voted 450l. to pay the expences of their three delegates to Congress.

On the 26th of August, the rioters at Boston destroyed the lieutenant-governor's house.

On the 1st of October, the first general continental Congress was held at New York; who, after several resolutions, declarations, &c. petitioned his Majesty for a redress of grievances.

On the 5th of October, the assembly of Massachusetts Bay deemed it lawful to do business without stamps; and the militia refused to obey the orders of the governor.

Indeed, so very universal had the opposition to the stamp act been, and so very successful in its operations, that by the 1st of November, the time when the act took place, not a sheet of stamped paper was to be had throughout the several colonies of New York, New England, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, or the two Carolinas, except a small parcel which the governor of New York, terrified by the threats of the enraged populace, had surrendered into the hands of the corporation of that place, on condition that it should not be destroyed, as the rest had been: so that all business which could not be legally carried on without stamps, was totally interrupted, except that of news-printing, which the printers still continued, pleading in excuse, that if they did not, the populace would treat them with the same rigour which had been exercised towards the stamp distributors.

But the consequences of this stagnation soon began to be so severely felt, that the inhabitants, who were still unwilling to submit to the act, began to think how they could effectually elude it. At length, the governors of some of the provinces, though bound by the act to swear to see it observed, under the severest penalties, thinking, with some reason, the total stoppage of all public business of such bad consequence to the community, as to render law-

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1765 ful the non-compliance with any injunctions laid on them, or even the breach of any oath taken by them in consequence of injunctions, merely for the sake of that community, thought proper to dispense with the use of stamps, grounding their dispensation on the absolute impossibility of procuring any; and, accordingly, granted certificates of that impossibility to all outward-bound vessels, to protect them from the penalties of the act in other parts of his Majesty's dominions.

Among the different methods which the Americans adopted to avoid any injury from this act, those which we are about to relate appear to be the best.—The merchants of all those colonies that ventured to give it a declared opposition, entered into the most solemn engagements with each other, not only to discontinue the ordering any more goods from Great Britain, and recal the orders they had already given, if not obeyed by the first of January, 1766, but even not to dispose of any British goods sent them on commission, that were not shipped before that day; or, if they consented to any relaxation from these engagements, it was not to take place till the stamp act, and even the sugar and paper money acts were repealed.

The people of Philadelphia likewise resolved, though not unanimously, that till such repeal, no lawyer should put in suit a demand for money owing by a resident in America to any one residing in England; and that no person in America, however indebted in England, should make any remittances there. These resolutions were adopted by the retailers, who unanimously agreed not to buy or sell any British goods shipped contrary to them.

Ireland, however, received considerable advantage from these proceedings, as those goods and commodities which were absolutely necessary, they imported from that country, in exchange for their hemp and flax-seed, of which they yearly send her very large quantities. In the mean time, however, they omitted no methods to free themselves even from this dependence.

A society of arts, manufactures, and commerce, on the plan of that established in London, was instituted at New York, and markets opened for the sale of home-made goods; by which it soon appeared, that neither the natives nor the manufacturers who had, for some time past, been invited from Britain, by very ample encouragements, had been idle. Linens, woollens, some of the coarser kinds of iron ware, malt spirits, paper hangings, &c. were produced to the society, and when offered to sale, as greedily purchased. At the same time, lest the new woollen manufactories should be checked by a dearth of materials, most of the inhabitants came to a resolution not to eat any lamb, and not to deal with any butcher who should kill or expose lamb to sale. In short, an increased spirit of industry and frugality universally prevailed; the most wealthy, and even fashionable people, were foremost in setting an example of these virtues to their countrymen, by wearing home-spun cloaths, rather than make use of British manufactures, which, till this unfortunate period, they favoured with the most partial preference. A resolution was also, at this time, in contemplation, of stopping the exportation of tobacco from Virginia and South Carolina to Great Britain; by which, considering the great quantities of that article re-exported from Great Britain, and the immense sum so imperceptibly raised by what she herself consumes of it, her trade, and especially her revenue, could not fail of being considerably affected.

Thus did the six principal British colonies of North America, viz. New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Maryland, conduct themselves in consequence of the stamp act, from the time of their first hearing of its being voted in Parliament to be a proper measure, till they were assured of its absolute repeal. The other

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1765 North American colonies, possibly more from a sense of their weakness than a principle of duty, thought proper to submit to it, but not all with equal grace. The West India islands manifested a ready submission, on this occasion, to the mother country, except St. Christopher's and Nevis, whose populace suffered themselves to be so far imposed on by the crews of some New England vessels in their harbours, as to rival the violence of the continental Americans. Here then we must quit this important subject, till the history of the succeeding year calls us to the renewal of it.

In the spring of this year, no common apprehensions were entertained for the public tranquillity, by the numerous assembling and discontented state of the journeymen silk-weavers of London. These labouring manufacturers being reinforced by those of all the other trades more immediately depending upon that branch, conceiving themselves greatly injured by the too free use of French silks, &c. assembled by beat of drum, with their wives and children, to the amount of many thousands, in Spital-fields and Moor-fields, in order to petition the King and Parliament for redress, by a total prohibition of that article; and from thence proceeded, in different bodies, to St. James's and Westminster Hall, and not only surrounded the palace and the two houses of Parliament, but, by their numbers, in some measure obstructed the communication between them. This appearance, together with the reports that the weavers of the inland towns, and their dependants in trade, were coming up to join their distressed brethren in London, could not fail of causing a very serious alarm throughout the metropolis; for had such a junction of destitute, discontented people taken place, or even had the London silk manufacturers, instead of seeking redress from the head, taken upon them to redress themselves, there is no saying how far the flame might have spread, or what fatal consequences might have followed before it could have been extinguished. But, providentially, they were prevented from committing any very violent outrage by the steady exertion of the civil, aided by the military power; and their displeasure, after indulging itself in besetting the house of the Duke of Bedford, who had delivered his sentiments concerning them in the House of Peers with uncommon severity, and in breaking the windows of some houses where French silks were supposed to be sold, was finally appeased without further mischief, by a seasonable subscription for their present relief, and an association among the principal silk mercers to recal all the orders they had given for foreign manufactures.

To make an applausive mention of such men as have extended commerce by their genius, improved it by their industry, or honoured it by their virtue, is our duty and our pleasure:—It becomes us therefore to relate, that Stephen Theodore Jansen, Esq. was, in consequence of his conduct as a magistrate, and his integrity as a merchant, at this time elected to the confidential and profitable office of chamberlain of London, of which city he was then alderman, as he had before been chief magistrate and representative. He was the first sheriff who, for a long time, ventured to see the sentence of justice executed at Tyburn, even in cases that seemed to require it most, without the aid of military force. On his failure, the year after his mayoralty, his friends settled a considerable annuity upon him, when, reserving but a bare subsistence for himself, he annually divided the rest amongst his creditors, though they had signed his certificate, and consequently could not have compelled him to pay an additional farthing. A considerable portion of his income as chamberlain he set apart for the same honourable purpose: he also sold an annuity of 500*l.* which was left him by his brother, soon after his election to that office, for the benefit of his creditors: so that he, at length, discharged every debt that had been incurred during his commercial life; and enjoyed, as he well deserved,

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1765 deserved, the universal regard and high respect which will ever wait upon such distinguished integrity.

A proclamation appeared in the London gazette, on the 23d of February, revoking all the then existing Mediterranean passes within the term of two years, at which time they were to be exchanged for new ones, except passes granted to ships gone or going to the East Indies, or other remote places, where they cannot be timely furnished with them; which passes were to continue in force for two years after the said term. This was done, according to the proclamation, to prevent a misunderstanding between us and the governments on the coast of Barbary; several passes having, during the war, or by undue means, fallen into the hands of foreigners, who being engaged in hostilities with those states, employed them to preserve their property from capture.

On the first of June, in this year, the English colours were hoisted on the castle of Castle-town, in the Isle of Man, the sovereignty of that island being now annexed to the crown of Great Britain; and a few days after, his Majesty was proclaimed throughout that island.

By his Majesty's proclamation relative to the purchase of this sovereignty, for which 70,000*l.* was paid to the Duke and Dukes of Athol, all persons, except those employed by the late proprietors in collecting the revenues, were continued in their respective places and employments, and ordered to take the oaths to his Majesty within one calendar month after the publication; and all jurisdictions, authorities, and forms of law, acts of state, &c. from the 21st of this month, were to be executed and issued in his Majesty's name.

The inhabitants were allowed six months to dispose of their stock in hand; and, after that time, were to become subject to the same taxes, customs, and duties as the people of England, and to be under the same regulations and restrictions; for which purpose, an excise-office and custom-house were immediately established.

By an abstract of the clear revenue of this island, from 1754 to 1763, the medium income appears to have been 7,293*l.* per annum; of which, the land revenue for the last year was 1,409*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*—and the annual income of the lands in the hands of the lord of the isle, was about 107*l.*

Thus this island, which had so long been an asylum for smugglers and outlaws, and a kind of open magazine for contraband goods, was brought within the pale of regular government, and enabled to pour in a just contribution to the general treasury of the British empire.

It may not be thought improper to add to this article, an abstract of the act of Parliament for annexing the island and lordship of Man to the crown, upon the surrender of the Duke and Dukes of Athol.

“ After stating the several grants, by which the Duke of Athol and his predecessors the Earls of Derby held the said island, and the agreement made by the present Duke and Dukes with the lords of his Majesty's treasury, it is enacted, that the said island, castle and lordship of Man, and all the islands and lordships, royalties and regalities, franchises, liberties and sea ports to the same belonging, and all other the hereditaments and premises granted by the several letters patent to the family of Derby, &c. shall be unalienably vested in his Majesty and his successors, excepting and reserving to the Duke of Athol and his heirs, the patronage of the bishopric of the island of Man, or of the bishoprics of Sodor and Man, the temporalities of the same when vacant, and all other patronages and ecclesiastical benefices within the islands: also reserving the landed property, with all rights in or over the soil, as lords of the manor, with all courts baron, rents, services, and other incidents to such courts belonging; wastes,

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1765 commons, and other lands; inland waters, fishing, mills, mines and minerals; and also reserving the honorary service of rendering to his Majesty's heirs and successors, Kings and Queens of England, two falcons on the days of their respective coronations."

In the month of July a board of longitude was held at the Admiralty, when the marine table for finding the longitude at sea, by the lunar method, invented by a Mr. Witchel, was taken into consideration and approved, and a thousand pounds ordered to be advanced, to enable the inventor to carry it into execution; and that gentleman, Mr. Israel Lyons, junior, Mr. William Wales, of Greenwich, and Mr. Mapson, were appointed computers of a nautical ephemeris, for the use of navigation and astronomy; and Mr. Richard Dunithorne to correct the same for the press.

About this time, the French, with their usual spirit of encroachment, made an attempt to fish on that part of the coast of Newfoundland from whence they were excluded by treaty; but the active vigilance, and spirited conduct of Governor Palliser, who took several of the boats, &c. prevented any continuance of a practice, so contrary to national honour and good faith.

In the course of the month of August, eight ships, which had been long and anxiously expected from New Spain, and another from Buenos Ayres, arrived at Cadiz. The cargoes of these ships were estimated at eleven millions of dollars, of which the registered gold and silver amounted to near nine millions.

His most Christian Majesty, from a consideration that it was impossible for English ships to sail to and from the English islands, as well as for French ships to sail to and from the French islands, in the West Indies, without often coming within a league of the shores belonging to the other, and even sometimes touching at their ports; by a letter to the Governor of Martinico, suspends the orders which he had formerly given, to seize and confiscate ships and cargoes in these circumstances, with a view, as his ordinance sets forth, to prevent the illicit trade heretofore carried on between his subjects and the English; observing, at the same time, that such a restriction on the part of the court of London, as that now abolished by him, would be equally prejudicial to the French.

On the 31st of October, between the hours of seven and eight in the evening, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland died suddenly at his house in Upper Grosvenor-street.

The death of such a great and illustrious character, is an event which must at all times be lamented; but, at the present moment, when his Royal Highness had returned to the actual service of his country, by assisting her in her exigencies with his counsels, the loss was proportionally greater, and as such it was considered and regretted by the nation. Nor can we pay a more honourable tribute to his memory, than by adopting the eulogium which the House of Lords, in deep lamentation of his loss, bestowed upon him: "the many eminent public and private virtues, the extent of capacity, and the magnanimity of mind; the affection for his Majesty's person, and the eminent services performed for this country, which distinguished this great and excellent Prince, have made an impression never to be erased from the minds of a grateful people."

The French King's Council of State issued an arret, dated the 29th of November, concerning the liquidation of the Canada bills, which contained three articles, the tenor of which is as follows:

Article I. The tickets, &c. given hitherto, and which may be delivered hereafter, in payment of the liquidation of the Canada bills, though fixed at 4 per cent. shall be nevertheless paid

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1765 paid at the rate of four and an half in the month of January in each year, to commence in 1776, and the capital preserved entire.

Article II. The bearers of the Canada bills shall be obliged to get them liquidated before the first of March next, and, if they delay it till after that time, the said papers, though they may have been declared, shall not, under any pretence, be admitted to liquidation, but will remain null and of no value, without hope of re-establishment.

Article III. His Majesty excepts, nevertheless, from the disposition of the preceding article, such of the said papers as belong to the subjects of Great Britain; and considering that the greatest part of the said papers remain yet in Canada, from whence the proprietors cannot totally withdraw them, and present them for liquidation before the first of October next, the delay above-mentioned may be extended, but in favour of the English only, till the said epocha; after the expiration of which, they will likewise forfeit all pretensions on their unliquidated papers. The reader is referred to the succeeding year, for a full account and final liquidation of the Canada bills.

The following bills received the royal assent in the parliamentary sessions of the present year.

A bill for the importation of salted beef, pork, bacon and butter from Ireland for a limited time.

A bill for allowing further time for the importation of goods, &c. from the ceded islands, upon the payment of goods to which they would have been liable had these islands remained in his Majesty's possession.

A bill for permitting the free importation of cattle from Ireland.

A bill for providing a public reward for persons who shall discover the longitude.

A bill for laying a stamp duty in the British colonies in America.

A bill to encourage the cultivation and growth of madder in Great Britain.

A bill to vest the Isle of Man in the crown.

A bill to improve the harbour of Ramsgate and the haven of Sandwich.

A bill for regulating the postage of letters.

A bill for repealing the duties on raw silk, and granting other duties in lieu thereof.

A bill for obliging prize agents to account for unclaimed monies.

A bill for encouraging the herring fishery.

A bill for laying additional duties on the importation of silks, velvets, &c. and otherwise encouraging the silk manufacture of this kingdom, and preventing combinations among journeymen.

A bill for granting duties on the exportation of coals, &c.

A bill for supplying the export trade to Africa with coarse calicoes, &c.

A bill for encouraging the importation of bugles.

A bill for granting annuities and a lottery out of the sinking fund.

A bill for repealing the laws relating to the width and length of woollen cloth, in the county of York, and preserving the credit of the masters of the said manufacture, &c.

His Majesty, on the 24th of April, had made a most gracious speech to acquaint his Parliament, that from the paternal affection which he bore to his children and to all his people, his late indisposition, though not attended with danger, had determined him to propose to their consideration, such measures as he thought might tend to preserve the constitution of Great Britain undisturbed, and the dignity and lustre of its crown unimpaired, if it should please God to put a period to his life whilst his successor was of tender years. In consequence of

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1765 of which royal recommendation, a bill, in the debates on which much party violence appeared, passed both Houses, and on the 15th of May received the royal assent, under the title of
 “ A Bill to provide for the Administration of Government, in case the Crown should descend
 “ to any of the Children of his Majesty, being under 18 Years of Age.”

To this must be added the following bills:

A bill to prohibit the importation of foreign manufactured silk stockings, gloves, and mits.

A bill to prevent the inconveniences arising from the present method of issuing notes and bills in Scotland.

A bill to alter the duties on Gum Senegal and Gum Arabic, to confine the import to Great Britain, and to lay a duty on the exportation thereof.

A bill for regulating the woollen manufactory in Yorkshire.

A bill for the relief of insolvent debtors.

Between the last and the former act of this kind, there is an interval of no more than one year and three quarters; the shortest period between the passing two insolvent acts ever known in this kingdom.

A bill to enable his Majesty, with the consent of the Privy Council, to prohibit the exportation of corn, during the recess of Parliament.

A bill to allow the free importation of corn, and to discontinue the bounty on corn exported.

Abstract of an act to alter certain rates of postage, and to amend, explain, and enlarge several provisions in an act, made in the ninth year of the reign of Queen Anne, and in other acts relating to the revenue of the Post-office.

The preamble to this act sets forth, “ that the security and improvement of correspondence throughout his Majesty’s dominions, being a matter of great concernment, and highly necessary for the preservation and extension of trade and commerce; and likewise, that by the vast accession of territory gained by the late treaty of peace, several communications having been opened, and new posts established in several parts of his Majesty’s dominions in America, for which the rates of postage cannot, under the present laws be properly ascertained: it is, therefore, enacted, that so much of the act of the ninth of Queen Anne, as establishes the rates of postage of letters between London and the British dominions in America, and places within the said dominions, be repealed, and from and after October 10, 1765, instead of the rates thereby established, the following take place:

“ For all letters and packets passing from London to any port within the British dominions in America, and from any such port unto London, for every single letter 1s. for every double letter 2s. and for every treble letter 3s. and for every ounce 4s. and so in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, or other things: and from any port in the said dominions, to any other port therein, by sea, for every single letter 4d. and so in proportion as above.

The rates of inland postage in America, for any distance not exceeding 60 miles, are, for every single letter 4d. and all others in proportion; for upwards of 60 and not exceeding 100 miles, every single letter 6d. &c. &c.

From and after October 10, 1765, no vessel is to be admitted to make entry or break bulk, till the letters on board are delivered to the Post-office; except in such cases where they are to be delivered to the superintendant of the quarantine, to be dispatched by him to the Post-office. Persons refusing to deliver up such letters, forfeit 20l. &c. and 1d. extra is charged on all ship letters not brought by the packet boats.

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From and after October 10, 1765, the present rates of postage by the general post, not exceeding one post stage in Scotland and Ireland, and not exceeding two in England, are to cease, and the following rates to take place, viz. rates for postage, not exceeding one post stage, for every single letter the sum of 1d. for every double letter 2d. for every treble letter 3d. and for every ounce 4d. and so in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, &c. above one and not exceeding two post stages, the sum of 2d. and other letters in proportion.

From July 5, 1765, the same rates of postage are to take place between London and Hamburg, as between London and Germany, and the postage of letters to be sent out of Great Britain may, if deemed necessary, be demanded upon their being put into the office.

The secreting or embezzling any letter, with any bank bill or note, &c. therein, or taking out any such note or bill, by any officer of the Post-office, is felony. Robbing the mail, or embezzling and misapplying the postage money, or destroying any letter or packet, or advancing the rates and not accounting for the same, is also felony, &c.

Supplies granted by Parliament for this year.				£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 seamen, including 4,287 marines,	—	—	—	832,000	0	0
For 17,421 land forces, including 2,628 invalids, and for guards, garrisons, &c.	—	—	—	608,130	10	7
For his Majesty's forces and garrisons in the Plantations, including Minorca and Gibraltar, and for provisions for the forces in North America, &c. and the ceded islands,	—	—	—	387,502	3	11½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments of 5 regiments of foot serving at Gibraltar, &c.	—	—	—	6,346	3	5
For the general and general staff officers of Great Britain,	—	—	—	11,291	8	6
For subsidies to the Duke of Brunswick,	—	—	—	10,343	16	9½
The out-pensioners of Chelsea hospital,	—	—	—	109,107	18	4
Pensions to officers widows,	—	—	—	1,664	0	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces and marines,	—	—	—	135,606	12	6
Allowances to officers and privates of two troops of horse guards, and regiment of horse reduced, &c.	—	—	—	2,361	14	2
The ordnance for the land service,	—	—	—	174,673	15	10
For services performed by the office of ordnance for land service, and not provided for in 1764,	—	—	—	55,519	10	7
For the navy, including half pay to sea and marine officers,	—	—	—	407,734	11	3
Out-pensioners of Greenwich hospital,	—	—	—	5,000	0	0
Towards buildings and repairs of the navy,	—	—	—	200,000	0	0
For extraordinary expences of the land forces and other services, between December 24, 1763, and December 25, 1764, not provided for,	—	—	—	404,496	7	6
Victualling and navy bills, &c.	—	—	—	1,500,000	0	0
Exchequer bills,	—	—	—	800,000	0	0
Towards compleating the passage over and through London bridge,	—	—	—	7,000	0	0
For the militia for one year,	—	—	—	80,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund, the sum paid out of the same to make good a deficiency on the rates and duties upon offices, persons, horses, &c.	—	—	—	48,176	1	11½

Carried over, 5,786,954 15 4½

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Brought over, £.5,786,954 15 4⁷/₁₁

Ditto, to make good the deficiency on the additional duties on wines imported, &c. — — — — — 49,742 1 2¹/₂

Ditto, for paying annuities granted in respect of certain navy, victualling and transport bills, and ordnance debentures, delivered in and cancelled, — — — — — 139,342 2 4

To make good the deficiency of the grants for 1764, — — — — — 249,660 4 10

To the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, — — — — — 50,000 0 0

For the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, — — — — — 4,911 14 11

On account of fundry expences for the service of Nova Scotia, in the years 1750, 1751, 1752, 1762, 1763, and not provided for, — — — — — 7,000 0 0

On account for the civil establishment of Georgia, &c. from June 24, 1764, to June 24, 1765, — — — — — 3,966 0 0

On account for the civil establishment of East Florida, &c. for the same term, — — — — — 5,200 0 0

Ditto for West Florida, — — — — — 5,200 0 0

On account, for surveys in North America, — — — — — 1,601 14 —

Towards building a lazaret, — — — — — 5,000 0 0

To redeem one quarter of the capital stock of certain annuities granted in respect of navy, victualling, and transport bills, and ordnance debentures, delivered in and cancelled pursuant to an act of the third year of his present Majesty, — — — — — 870,888 5 5¹/₂

Towards discharging unsatisfied claims, &c. for expences incurred during the late war in Germany, — — — — — 248,259 11 4

On account, out of the monies remaining to be applied, of the exceedings of the several sums provided by Parliament for fundry services, and of monies that have been paid into the hands of the paymaster general by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765, towards discharging such unsatisfied claims, &c. — — — — — 251,740 0 7³/₄

Bounties to certain chaplains who have served on board his Majesty's ships of war, — — — — — 1,231 17 6

To the Foundling Hospital, — — — — — 38,000 0 0

For maintaining and supporting the British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa, — — — — — 13,000 0 0

For building a blockhouse at or near Cape Appolonia on the coast of Africa, — — — — — 7,000 0 0

For three independent companies of foot for his Majesty's service on the coast of Africa, &c. — — — — — 6,491 16 4¹/₂

For the civil establishment of that part of the coast of Africa, situate between the port of Sallee, in South Barbary, and Cape Rouge — — — — — 5,500 10 0

To make good the like sum, which had been issued by his Majesty in pursuance of the addresses of this House, — — — — — 2,400 0 0

To the government of the island of Barbadoes, for the assistance given by them to his Majesty's forces under General Monckton, in the expedition against Martinico, — — — — — 10,000 0 0

Sum total of the supplies granted in this session, — — — — — 7,763,090 13 0²/₃

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	£.	s.	d.
Ways and means for raising the supplies, &c.			
Malt duty, — — — —	750,000	0	0
Land tax, — — — —	2,037,854	19	11
Navy and victualling bills — — — —	1,500,000	0	0
Surplusses of the sinking fund, — — — —	135,000	5	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
From ditto, — — — —	2,100,000	0	0
Surplus of the grant to the militia, for 1764, — — — —	80,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills, — — — —	800,000	0	0
From monies granted towards protecting the colonies, — — — —	60,000	0	0
Monies to be paid by a convention with the French King, — — — —	308,000	0	0
Duties on Gum Senegal, &c. — — — —	12,000	0	0

To this is to be added the sum provided as well as granted out of the monies remaining to be applied of the exceedings of the several sums provided by Parliament for fundry services, and of monies that have been paid into the hands of the Paymaster General by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765, as mentioned in the foregoing account of supplies

	251,740	2	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total ways and means, — — — —	8,034,808	7	6
Supply granted, — — — —	7,763,090	13	0
Excess of this year, — — — —	271,717	14	6 $\frac{3}{4}$

As no debts were created by the foregoing revenue votes, the only state of the national debt we could insert under this year, would be the same as that of the last, we have therefore thought proper to omit it.

The following is a detail of the extraordinary duties which were imposed to aid the general scheme of supply for this year.

February 7.—Fifty-five resolutions of the committee of ways and means were agreed to by the House of Commons, for imposing much the same stamp duties upon the British colonies and plantations in America, as are payable in England; to be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer, and there reserved, to be disposed of by Parliament towards further defraying the necessary expences of protecting the said colonies.

February 16.—For the better supply of our export trade to Africa, with such coarse printed calicoes and other goods, being the product or manufacture of the East Indies, or other places beyond the Cape of Good Hope, as are prohibited to be worn in Great Britain, the East India Company were permitted to import the same from any part of Europe not within the British dominions, under proper limitations; and upon failure of the company's keeping the said export trade supplied with a sufficient quantity of such goods, other persons were permitted to import the same from any such part of Europe, &c. Calicoes and other goods so imported, were made liable to pay the same duties as if imported by the said company from the East Indies, or any other place beyond the Cape of Good Hope, and no other.

The bounty allowed by law, to be paid on the exportation of corn, grain, malt, meal, and flour, from Great Britain to the Isle of Man, was discontinued.

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1765 A stamp duty of 10s. was charged upon every piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which every licence for making and selling measures of capacity should be ingrossed, written, or printed; and a stamp duty of 10l. upon every licence for making and selling of weights.

March 11.—Certain annuities granted in the twenty-third year of his late Majesty, and the second year of his present Majesty, in respect of certain capital stocks thereby established, amounting together to the sum of 20,240,000l. at the rate of 4l. per cent. for certain terms of years, and then to be reduced to 3l. per cent. per annum. which annuities were made payable half yearly on the 5th of July and 5th of January in every year, and afterwards consolidated and made one joint stock, were, from and after the fifth of July next ensuing, made payable in the following manner, viz. one quarterly payment on the 10th of October next, and the annuities, from the 10th of October, to be payable half yearly, on the 5th of April and the 10th of October in every year.

March 12.—Fifteen resolutions of the said committee were agreed to by the House, relating to the postage of letters: they were afterwards formed into a bill, and the bill passed into a law, of which we have already given an abstract.

March 14.—Persons interested in any bill, payable in the course of the navy or victualling offices, or for transports, which were made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, who should on or before the 26th of March, inst. carry the same (after having the interest computed thereupon to the 6th of April next) to the office of the Treasurer of his Majesty's navy, should have, in exchange, a certificate to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for every sum of one or more hundred pounds of which such bill or bills, with the interest, should consist, until the several entire sums for which certificates were to be made forth, should amount together to 1,500,000l. and another certificate for the fractional part of 100l. being the remainder of such bill or bills; and the persons who should be possessed of such first-mentioned certificates, of the entire sum of one or more hundred pounds, should, upon delivery thereof to the said Governor and Company, be entitled to the annuities hereafter-mentioned, viz. for two-fifth parts of the sums therein mentioned, to an annuity after the rate of 3l. per cent. redeemable by Parliament, and transferable and payable at the Bank of England; for two other fifth parts thereof, to a proportional number of tickets of the value of 10l. in a lottery to consist of 60,000 tickets, every blank to be of the value of 6l.; the blanks and prizes to be attended with the like 3 per cent annuities; and, for the remaining one-fifth part, to a like annuity, after the rate of 3l. per cent. with liberty to convert the same into an annuity for life, after the same rate, with benefit of survivorship, in the following manner, viz. that every person who should become possessed, in right of 100l. capital stock, of an annuity of 3l. in such last-mentioned annuities, and should produce, on or before the 5th of April 1765, a certificate thereof, attested by the cashier of the Bank of England, to the auditor of the receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer, should, in lieu thereof, be entitled, from the said 5th of April 1765, during the life of the nominee whom he should appoint, to a life annuity of 3l. payable at the Exchequer, out of the sinking fund; and the several nominees, to be appointed in respect of such life annuities, to be divided into classes, the whole annuity belonging to each class not to be less than 1,500,000l. if life annuities to that amount shall be so subscribed; and, upon the death of every nominee, the annuity, so fallen in, to be distributed among the survivors of the same class; and the annuities of the first two-fifth parts, should be immediately added to the joint stock of annuities, reduced from 4 to three per cent. and consolidated, pursuant to certain

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1765 certain acts of Parliament, made in the 25th and 26th years of his late Majesty; and the annuities attending the said lottery, together with such of the annuities of the said one fifth part as should not be exchanged for annuities on lives, with the benefit of survivorship, in manner above-mentioned, should also be added to such joint stock, from the 5th of April 1765; and all the said annuities, transferable and payable at the Bank, should commence from the said 5th of April 1765, and be payable half yearly, on the 10th of October and 5th of April in every year, out of the sinking fund; but, in case the several entire sums of one or more hundred pounds, with the interest, should not then amount in the whole to 1,500,000*l.* all persons possessed of such certificate for the fractional parts of 100*l.* or of navy, victualling, or transport bills, which should be made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, and did not amount, together with the interest, computed to the 6th of April, to 100*l.* might, on or before the 5th of April, carry the same to the office of the Treasurer of his Majesty's navy, and have, in exchange, a certificate to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for the sums contained in such certificates, and for the amount of the principal and interest of which such bills should consist; and, upon delivery thereof, and payment of so much money to the said Governor and Company as should, with the sum so certified, amount to 100*l.* be entitled to the annuities and advantages before-mentioned: and if any such certificates for fractional parts should not be delivered in, and subscribed as aforesaid, on or before the said fifth of April next, they should be paid according to the course of the navy, in such order as the bills in part of which they were granted were payable; and such of them as were granted in part of bills bearing interest, should, from the said 5th of April next, carry the like interest to which such bills were entitled.

An additional duty was granted to his Majesty, of 4*s.* for every chaldron of coals, Newcastle measure, which should be shipped for exportation to any part beyond the seas, except to Ireland, the Isle of Man, or the British dominions in America; and at the same rate for any greater or lesser quantity.

There was granted to his Majesty, upon all wrought silks, Bengals, and stuffs, mixed with silk or herba, of the manufacture of Persia or East India, and upon all callicoes, printed, dyed, painted or stained there, which should be exported from this kingdom, except to Africa or the British dominions in America, a subsidy of poundage, after the rate of 12*d.* for every 20*s.* of the value of such goods, according to the gross price at which the same were sold at the public sales thereof: and upon exportation from this kingdom of any sort of white callicoes or muslins, except to Africa or the British dominions in America, there was to be retained, besides the one half of the rate or duty of the old subsidy, which then remained and was not drawn back for the same, the further sum of 2*l.* for every 100*l.* of the real value of such goods, according to the gross price at which they were sold at the East India Company's sales; but that such callicoes, which should first have been printed, stained, painted, or dyed, in Great Britain, should not be subject to the said duty of 2*l.* to be retained as aforesaid.

A stamp duty of 2*d.* for every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which should be engrossed, written, or printed, any policy of assurance, which should be made within the weekly bills of mortality, over and above all other duties. Likewise a duty of 2*s.* 6*d.* for every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which should be engrossed, written, or printed, any policy of assurance which should be made in Great Britain, over and above all other duties. The said duties were to be carried to, and made part of, the sinking fund, towards making good the payment of the said annuities.

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1765 The stamp duty of 6d. imposed in the 12th of Queen Anne, and the additional duty of 1s. imposed in the 30th of King George II. upon vellum, parchment, or paper, containing any indenture, lease, bond, or other deed, was declared to extend to every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which should be engrossed, written, or printed in Great Britain, any policy of assurance or charter party.

March 25.—Authority was given to permit the importation into this kingdom from the Isle of Man, under proper limitations, coarse printed calicoes and other goods, of the product and manufacture of the East Indies, or other places beyond the Cape of Good Hope, which are prohibited to be used in Great Britain, and which were brought into the said isle before the 1st of March 1765, upon payment of one half of the old subsidy only for such goods.

April 4.—In case the monies, for which certificates have been or shall be granted, in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons, of the 14th of March last, by the Treasurer of his Majesty's navy, to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, for navy, victualling and transport bills, made out on or before the 30th of June 1764, and for such fractional parts of the said bills, as remained above the entire sum of one or more hundred pounds, together with the sums paid and payable at the Bank of England, with the certificates for such fractional parts, and for such of the said bills, as, together with the interest computed thereupon, did not amount to 100l. should not, on the 5th of April, inst. make up the full sum of 1,500,000l. the monies which shall be so wanting to complete the said sum of 1,500,000l. should be raised by contributions, to be received at the Bank of England, in entire sums of one or more hundred pounds, to be paid to the cashier of the said Governor and Company, on or before the 28th of April; and that the contributors be entitled for the monies so advanced, to such annuities as are mentioned in the said resolution, to be allowed to the proprietors of certificates, granted in exchange for such navy, victualling, and transport bills, as shall have been delivered on or before the respective days therein limited.

April 20.—A duty of 6d. was laid upon every 100 weight of gum senegal, or gum arabic, imported into this kingdom, over and above all duties now payable thereon: and a duty of 30s. was laid upon every 100 weight of gum senegal, or gum arabic, exported out of this kingdom, over and above all duties now payable thereon.

April 25.—The monies which had been paid at the Bank, in pursuance of the resolutions of the House of Commons, of the 14th of March last, were ordered to be applied towards discharging bills payable in the course of the navy or victualling offices, or for transports, which were made out on or before the 30th of June, 1764.

April 30.—The bounties and drawbacks paid upon the exportation of refined and ground sugars, were discontinued: and a bounty was allowed, after the rate of 14s. 6d. for every hundred weight, upon the exportation from this kingdom of refined sugar in the loaf, complete and whole, being net, viz. of one uniform whiteness throughout, and which has gone through the operation of 3 days at least, and been properly and thoroughly dried in the stove, according to the present method of refining: also upon the exportation from this kingdom of refined sugar called bastard, and of ground and powdered refined sugar, and of refined loaf sugar broke in pieces, (the said sugar having been twice clayed, and properly dried in the stove) a bounty or drawback was allowed, after the rate of 6s. 4d. for every hundred weight.

Liberty was granted for a limited time, to carry rice from North Carolina, directly to any other part of America, southward of South Carolina and Georgia, subject to such duty as is now payable upon rice, carried from South Carolina and Georgia, to any part of America, to

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1765 the southward thereof: and the duties arising therefrom, were ordered to be paid into the receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer, and there reserved, to be disposed of by Parliament, towards further defraying the necessary expences of defending and securing the British dominions in America.

Bounties were also granted upon the importation of deals, planks, boards and timber, into this kingdom, from the British dominions in North America, for the term of 9 years, as follows, during the first 3 years, for every 100, containing 6 score of sound merchantable deals, planks and boards, not less than 10 feet long, 10 inches broad, and 1 inch and a quarter thick, 20s. and so in proportion for any greater length; and for any greater thickness, not exceeding 4 inches, and for every load, containing 40 cubic feet, of sound merchantable squared timber of all kinds, (the timber not to be less than 10 inches square) 12s.; and during the next 3 years, for every 100 of such deals, planks, and boards, 15s. and for every load of such timber, 8s. and during the last 3 years, for every 100 of such deals, planks and boards, 10s. and for every load of such timber, 5s.

The additional inland duty of 1s. granted in the thirty-second year of his late Majesty, upon every pound weight avoirdupois of coffee sold in Great Britain, was ordered to cease and determine: and in lieu thereof, there was granted to his Majesty, an additional inland duty of 6d. upon every pound weight avoirdupois of coffee, not being of the growth and product of the British plantations in America, which should be sold in Great Britain. This additional inland duty, was to be appropriated to the uses, to which the said duty of 1s. per pound weight was made applicable.

The allowances directed by law, to be made in respect of hard soap, which should be refreshed or made new, were discontinued: and, in lieu thereof, the duties upon one pound, in every 10 pounds weight of soap, were allowed to the makers.

All linen cloth and diaper of Russia, which were not then particularly rated in any act of Parliament, or book of rates, were, upon importation into this kingdom, rated as follows:—All such cloth and diaper, being in breadth more than $22\frac{1}{2}$ and not exceeding $31\frac{1}{2}$ inches, at 4l. and being in breadth more than $31\frac{1}{2}$ and not exceeding 45 inches, at 6l. and exceeding 45 inches in breadth, at 10l. for every 120 English ells thereof respectively, and so in proportion for any greater or lesser quantity; and the full amount of the several duties required by law to be paid, for every 20s. of the value of such goods, was to be raised and collected according to the said respective rates.

No drawback or bounty was to be allowed upon the exportation of any goods from this kingdom, to any of the islands of Faro.

May 6.—Every instrument, letter, entry, minute, memorandum, or other writing, whereby any officer is admitted, in any court whatsoever, to serve or to hold such office, as is charged with any stamp duty within the meaning of the acts of the fifth of William and Mary, the ninth of William III. and the twelfth of Queen Anne, whereby the several duties of 40s. are imposed upon every piece of vellum, parchment, or paper, on which any admittance of such officer is ingrossed or written, should be deemed and taken to be an admittance of such officer.

The existing stamp duty upon the admission into any corporation or company, was repealed: and, in lieu thereof, a stamp duty of 2s. was to be charged upon the entry, minute, or memorandum, made of such admittance, in their court book, roll, or record.

The then allowance for prompt payment at the stamp office, was repealed: and, instead thereof, an allowance be made at the rate of 4l. per cent. per ann.

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1765 An additional stamp duty of 20s. was charged upon every policy of assurance, in which the properties of more than one person, in any ship, cargo, or both, or more than a particular number of persons in partnership, or more than one body politic, to a greater amount in the whole than 100l. should be assured.

The 2s. stamp duty, to be imposed by the third resolution of May 3, was applied to the uses, to which the stamp duty repealed by that resolution was applicable.

The additional stamp duty of 20s. imposed by the sixth resolution of May 6, should be applied to the like uses, to which the duties upon policies of assurance were then applicable.

The same bounties were allowed upon all linens to be made in the Isle of Man, and imported into Great Britain, which should be exported from thence, as are now allowed on the exportation of British or Irish linens, and under the same restrictions and limitations.

The inhabitants of the Isle of Man were now allowed to import, into any lawful port of Great Britain or Ireland, the bestials, or any other goods, wares, and merchandizes of the growth, produce, and manufacture of the said Isle, except woollen manufactures, beer and ale, without paying any custom, subsidies, or duties, except such excise or other duty, as is or should be due and payable for the like goods, wares, or merchandize, of the growth, produce, and manufactures of Great Britain, liable to certain limitations and restrictions.

May 9.—Towards making good and securing the payment of the sums of money, directed by an act of the thirty-second of George II. to be applied in augmentation of the salaries of the judges and justices in England and Wales, there was granted an additional stamp duty of 4l. upon every piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, upon which any admission into any of the four inns of court should be engrossed or written; and an additional stamp duty of 6l. upon every such piece on which should be engrossed or written, any register, entry, testimonial, or certificate, of the degree of Utter Barrister, taken in any of the four inns of court.

It may not be improper to observe, that the two sums, amounting to 500,000l. provided for discharging unsatisfied claims and demands incurred during the late war in Germany, and which are particularly stated in the supplies for this year, were granted in a manner, very seldom if ever practised before the preceding session. The old and most regular way of providing for this sum, would have been to have granted in the committee of supply, upon account, a sum not exceeding 500,000l. towards discharging such unsatisfied claims, demands, &c.; and then the committee of ways and means to have resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to his Majesty, there be issued and applied the sum of 251,740l. 2s. 7½d. out of the exceedings of the several sums provided by Parliament for sundry services, and of the monies that have been paid into the hands of the Paymaster-general by contractors and others, to March 23, 1765. The whole, it is plain, of the 500,000l. was to be paid on account of the war in Germany.

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1765

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1764, to CHRISTMAS 1765.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 51,692 2 11	£. 469,034 14 4
Canaries, — — —	8,591 4 11	42,365 15 8
Denmark and Norway, — — —	85,901 3 9	132,588 16 10
East Country, — — —	128,901 18 2	239,717 5 5
East India, — — —	1,455,589 1 2	914,278 14 1
Flanders, — — —	146,412 4 9	456,817 19 1
France, — — —	186,333 8 10	153,076 11 0
Germany, — — —	602,624 12 7	1,869,465 18 8
Greenland, — — —	10,639 11 0	15 5 7
Holland, — — —	420,273 4 3	2,026,772 16 11
Ireland, — — —	1,070,533 11 11	1,767,020 1 6
Italy, — — —	785,030 7 6	824,803 5 8
Madeiras, — — —	3,974 12 1	40,797 3 3
Portugal, — — —	354,307 5 1	679,037 16 1
Russia, — — —	967,339 11 7	76,170 18 9
Spain, — — —	594,893 9 3	1,237,551 3 11
Streights, — — —	28,057 7 8	80,306 16 0
Sweden, — — —	234,452 0 1	49,003 17 8
Turkey, — — —	122,652 2 11	91,735 1 3
Venice, — — —	47,912 11 10	22,481 1 4
Alderney, — — —	157 0 5	1,333 16 5
Guernsey, — — —	17,595 3 5	29,024 10 2
Jersey, — — —	16,793 4 7	12,109 6 10
Antigua, — — —	159,152 12 5	149,751 1 8
Anguilla, — — —	3,536 11 0	
Barbadoes, — — —	326,688 6 8	191,202 19 0
Bermudas, — — —	9,973 4 8	17,715 15 3
Canada, — — —	39,034 4 2	213,509 14 9
Carolina, — — —	385,918 12 0	334,709 12 8
Dominica, — — —	73,497 10 10	8,656 3 3
Florida, — — —	684 8 4	19,888 9 8
Georgia, — — —	34,183 15 8	29,165 16 9
Granades, — — —	199,909 0 11	77,673 9 1
Guadaloupe, — — —	66,560 15 7	
Havannah, — — —	6,451 0 0	
Hudson's Bay, — — —	10,654 10 1	4,394 5 5
Jamaica, — — —	1,023,091 13 9	415,624 0 4
Martinico, — — —	24 16 1	
Montserrat, — — —	66,694 12 11	15,938 15 4
Nevis, — — —	54,528 17 6	11,905 19 5
New England, — — —	145,819 0 1	451,299 14 7
Newfoundland, — — —	43,928 4 11	70,498 7 9
New Providence, — — —	4,871 3 5	4,227 18 3
New York, — — —	54,959 18 2	382,349 11 1
Nova Scotia, — — —	164 2 1	48,211 19 8
Pennsylvania, — — —	25,148 10 10	363,368 17 5
St. Croix, — — —	7,089 10 4	4,800 18 11
St. John's Island, — — —		862 11 9
St. Christopher's, — — —	245,095 3 7	111,357 9 11
St. Lucia, — — —	447 3 6	
St. Vincent, — — —	4,459 14 5	1,443 18 9
Tobago, — — —		546 19 11
Tortola, — — —	38,972 13 10	21,171 17 9
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	505,671 9 9	383,224 13 0
West Indies in general, — — —		1,383 15 3
Spanish West Indies, — — —	11,874 5 8	113 8 8
Totals,	10,889,742 13 10	14,550,507 1 8
Exports exceed the Imports,		3,660,764 7 10

A general

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1765 A general bill of christenings and burials in London, from December 11, 1764, to December 10, 1765.

Christened, males	8,422	Buried, males	11,489
———— females	7,949	———— females	11,741
	16,371		23,230

Bills of births, burials, &c. in different parts of Great Britain and Europe, for the year 1765.

Amsterdam,—baptized, 4776; married in the reformed churches, 1692; at the town-hall, 750; by banns, 1,073; died, 7,725.

Brandenburgh and Prussian Pomerania,—born 14,383; married, 3,641; died, 9,108.

Copenhagen,—born, 2,541; married, 1,033; died, 1,001.

Denmark,—born, 25,923; died, 24,678.

Holstein and Sleswick,—born. 12,797; died, 11,533.

Koningberg,—born. 2,149; married, 683; died, 1,575.

Leipsick,—born, 1,437; married, 324; died, 1,048.

Liverpool,—christened, 956; married, 478; buried, 1,151.

Munich, capital of Bavaria,—born, 816; died, 1,063.

Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead,—christened, 728; buried, 763.—The burials at the Ballast Hills not included, which are estimated at 300.

Norway,—born, 22,536; died, 20,241.

Paris,—born, 19,439; foundlings, 5,495; marriages, 4,782; deaths, 18,034.

Petersburgh,—born, 5,049; died, 4,198.

Rotterdam,—married, 573; died, 1,710.

1766 It was, at the time, and still is the opinion of many reflecting, well-informed, and impartial persons, that the political candour of the ministry, (a very rare virtue among statesmen) was the innocent cause of the violent opposition given to the stamp act, in England as well as America; and we are rather disposed to lean towards such an opinion. Had the stamp duty been laid on the colonies at once, and without any previous mention of it to them, they would, perhaps, have submitted, if not without some discontent, at least without that unrestrained violence of opposition which has proved the source of so much calamity. The principal people among them would not then have had an opportunity of making the lower sort foresee, in that act of the British legislature, when merely held out to them, much greater evils than they were liable to feel when actually subjected to it; much less would they have had time to animate each other against it to such a degree, that all intelligence concerning it which reached any one part of the extensive dominions of British America, almost instantaneously flew over the rest, exciting every where discontents in all ranks, and such commotions in most of them, particularly among the populace, as to produce all that hostility of disposition to the mother country which we have described under the preceding year.

While, however, Great Britain and America were suspended in anxious expectation in what manner these differences between both would terminate, the ministry so obnoxious to the latter had been dismissed, and another substituted in its room, whose system of politics was more favourable to their wishes. They were brought into the public service by the advice, and under the arrangement of the Duke of Cumberland, who could not be suspected of any party

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1766 prepossessions, and who was known to possess those talents which qualified him to stand forth the effectual friend of his country at such a critical juncture.

The nation was, at this period, involved in circumstances of no common distress; our manufacturers wanted employment, commerce was in a kind of stagnant state, provisions were extravagantly dear, and a numerous populace had not sufficient employment to obtain the means of comfortable subsistence. Such was the gloomy prospect that opened upon us at the commencement of this year: nor did the more extended prospects across the Atlantic ocean afford any other objects but scenes of anarchy and confusion, in which licentiousness was carried to such a height, as almost to assume another name.

But supported as the colonists were by an enthusiastic spirit of resentment, they very sensibly felt the inconveniences which must ever arise to a commercial people from an interruption of their trade. Their warehouses, however, were full of British goods, for which they had not paid; and the many resources of so vast an extent of country, abounding in the most essential articles of life, prevented them from feeling the pressure of immediate distress.

The enormous sums which were owing to our merchants in the colonies, added greatly to the public difficulties, by the effect that circumstance naturally had on the trading and manufacturing part of the community. These debts, amounting to several millions, the Americans pleaded their inability to pay; and their very creditors were ready to admit the plea, as founded in truth.

As the nation was never, perhaps, in a more critical situation, no administration had greater difficulties to encounter than that which had been lately called to the management of public affairs. They were under the immediate necessity of either enforcing the stamp act by fire and sword, or of moving its immediate repeal in Parliament. In the former case, though there was no doubt entertained of the power of Great Britain to crush the colonies, yet such a decision would have been considered as employing one arm to cut off the other.

On the other hand, if the act should be repealed, they might be accused, with some appearance of justice, of sacrificing the dignity of the crown, with the interests of the nation, to their own want of resolution, or a blind opposition to the measures of their predecessors in office.

The loss of their illustrious patron, the Duke of Cumberland, was also a diminution of their strength and security, which owed so much to his good sense and patriotism, as well as the confidence which the public had so naturally placed in him.

Such was the situation of affairs when the Parliament met at the latter end of the year 1765. Notice was taken from the throne of the importance of those matters which had occurred in North America, and which were offered as the cause for assembling the two houses sooner than was originally intended, that they might have an opportunity to issue the necessary writs on the many vacancies which had happened since the last session, and proceed, immediately after the recess, to the consideration of the very important matters which would then solicit their attention.

There never was any subject debated in the Parliament of Great Britain, in which the public appeared to be more deeply interested than the present; while the rest of Europe, particularly the commercial part of it, were by no means inattentive to the event.

When the Parliament met again, in the month of January, in this year, a second speech from the throne recommended the American affairs as the principal object of its deliberations.

Petitions

A. D.

1766 Petitions were also received, at this time, from the merchants of London, Bristol, Lancaster, Liverpool, Hull, Glasgow, &c. &c. and indeed from most of the trading and manufacturing towns in the kingdom. In these petitions they set forth the great decay of their trade, owing to the new laws and regulations made for America; the vast quantity of our manufactures (besides those articles imported from abroad, which were purchased either with our own manufactures, or with the produce of our colonies) which the American trade formerly took off our hands; by all which, many thousands of manufacturers, seamen, and labourers, had been employed, to the very great and increasing benefit of the nation.—That, in return for these exports, the petitioners had received from the colonies, rice, indigo, tobacco, naval stores, oil, whale-fins, and latterly pot-ash, with other staple commodities; besides a large balance in remittances by bills of exchange and bullion, obtained by the colonists for articles of their produce not required for the British market, and therefore exported to other places.

That, from the nature of this trade, consisting of British manufactures exported, and of the import of raw materials from America, many of them used in our manufactures, and all of them tending to lessen our dependence on neighbouring states, it must be deemed of the first importance in the commercial system of this nation. That this commerce, so beneficial to the state, and so necessary for the support of multitudes, then lay under such difficulties and discouragements, that nothing less than its utter ruin was apprehended, without the immediate interposition of Parliament.

That the colonies were then indebted to the merchants of Great Britain to the amount of several millions sterling; and that when pressed for payment, they appealed to past experience in proof of their willingness, but declare it is not in their power to make good their engagements; alleging, that the taxes and restrictions laid upon them, and the extension of the jurisdiction of the admiralty courts, established by some late acts of Parliament, &c. which have so far interrupted the usual and former most fruitful branches of their commerce, restrained the sale of their produce, thrown the state of the several provinces into confusion, and brought on so many actual bankruptcies, that the former opportunities and means of remittances and payments were taken from them.

In short, such a number of petitions from every commercial and trading part of the kingdom, containing so many interesting facts, stated and attested by such numbers of people, whose lives had been entirely devoted to trade, and who must be naturally supposed competent judges of a subject to which they had so closely attended, (besides as it shewed the general sense of the nation) could not fail of considerably influencing, and having a great weight with Parliament.

There were also petitions presented by the agents of the island of Jamaica, and the colonies of Virginia and Georgia; but instead of lessening the spirit of debate, these petitions encreased the subjects of it. At length, however, after a most unwearied attention to this important business, the House of Commons resolved, without a division, that Great Britain possessed a legislative power over her colonies in all cases whatsoever. This resolution was followed by a bill for the repeal of the stamp act; which, after a length of parliamentary debate that had been seldom or never before known, was carried, on a division, by a majority of 275 to 167; and, with another bill, declaring the supreme, sovereign authority of Great Britain over her colonies, on the eighth day of March received the royal assent.

OF

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1766

Of these important acts of Parliament we shall give the following abstracts:

Abstract of an Act for the better securing the Dependence of his Majesty's Dominions in America on the Crown of Great Britain.

The preamble sets forth, "That several of the houses of representatives in his Majesty's colonies in America, had of late, against the law, claimed to themselves, or to the general assemblies of the same, the sole and exclusive right of imposing duties and taxes on his Majesty's subjects in the said colonies, and have passed certain votes, resolutions, and orders, derogatory to the authority of Parliament, and inconsistent with the dependency of the said colonies upon the crown of Great Britain: it is therefore declared, that the said colonies have been, are, and of right ought to be, subordinate unto, and dependent on, the imperial crown and Parliament of Great Britain; and that the King and Parliament of Great Britain had, hath, and of right ought to have, full power and authority to make laws and statutes of sufficient force to bind the colonies, and his Majesty's subjects in them, in all cases whatsoever.

"And it is further declared, that all resolutions, votes, orders, and proceedings in any of the said colonies, whereby the power and authority of the King, Lords, and Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, is denied or drawn into question, are, and are hereby declared to be utterly null and void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever."

Abstract of an Act for repealing the Stamp Act.

This act sets forth, "That as the continuance of the former act would be attended with many inconveniences, and may be productive of consequences greatly detrimental to the commercial interests of these kingdoms, it is therefore, from and after the first of May, 1766, with the several matters and things contained in it, hereby repealed and made void, to all intents and purposes whatsoever."

On the 6th of June a bill was also brought into Parliament, to indemnify those who had incurred penalties on account of the stamp act, &c. and a requisition was made by government to the North American provinces to indemnify such persons as had suffered in their property by the late riots, by making them a proper compensation for the losses they had sustained; which, after some time, was accordingly done. At the same time, a bill was passed for opening free ports, under certain restrictions, in different parts of the West Indies.

This administration, who, by their conduct, were endeavouring to secure popularity, could not take a more ready method to obtain possession of that object than by the repeal of the cyder act, which took place during this session. Few laws had ever been passed in this country which had proved so obnoxious to the people in general, but especially to those of the cyder counties, than that act had been: the repeal of it was accompanied with proportionate marks of public approbation.

But government was not wholly employed in domestic concerns; foreign transactions possessed a proper share of their attention: and it was in this year that a final settlement of the long contested business of the Canada bills took place. As this transaction occupied a tedious length of negotiation, and may claim a place among the commercial events of this period, we shall relate the particular circumstances of it.

When Canada was in possession of the French, it was an annual loss to the government, although its trade was very profitable to individuals, and to the kingdom in general.

The method the French government took to pay the subjects of Canada the balance due to them, was by giving them either bills of exchange on the royal treasury, or what they call ordonnances, of which the following was the form:

20 sols

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20 sols—COLONIES, 1757.

Dépenses générales.

No. 44,195.

Il sera tenu compte par le Roi, au mois d'Octobre prochain, de la somme de vingt sols, valeur en la soumission du trésorier, restée au bureau du contrôle.

A Quebec, le premier Juin, 1757.

BIGOT.

These bills were given from a thousand livres to seven-pence halfpenny, and were preferred by the inhabitants to current coin. In the month of October of every year, every one was at liberty to bring these ordonnances to the intendant's office, and had a right to demand bills of exchange on Old France in payment. This right gave the paper currency a preference even over ready cash, as the government would not take cash for bills of exchange.

Although the inhabitants might have brought all their ordonnances to the year 1759 for payment, yet being as current, and more useful than cash, considerable quantities always remained in the country; and, as a proof, there were still extant some of these ordonnances of the year 1729.

In the year 1759, the intendant, and others concerned in the government of Canada, issued out very considerable quantities of bills of exchange, which they pretended were for the use of the government; but as the French court charged them with mal-administration, this point continued in dispute till they were sentenced to make restitution. On being informed of this sentence, the English merchants, who were, as we have mentioned under a former year, deeply concerned in Canada paper, applied to government, for the purpose of obtaining their share in the appointed restitution; and after a length of negotiation which the business did not seem to require, the following convention for the liquidation of the Canada paper money belonging to the subjects of the King of Great Britain and his Most Christian Majesty, was executed on the 29th of March, in this year.

“ Article I. His Excellency General Conway, invested with full powers and authorisations, accepts for the British proprietors and holders of Canada paper, and in their names, the reduction of the said paper, on the footing of 50 per cent. for the bills of exchange, and such part of the certificates as are entitled to the said payments; and of 75 per cent. for the ordonnances, cards, and the remaining part of the certificates; and to receive for the 50 and 25 per cent. of the reduced principal, reconnoissances, or rent contracts, which shall bear an annual interest from the 1st of January, 1765, of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to be subjected to the dixième from the said 1st of January, 1765, in as many reconnoissances as it shall suit the holders to divide their liquidated principals into, provided that each reconnoissance shall not be for more than 1000 livres Tournois: which reconnoissances shall share the same fate for their reimbursement as the other debts of the state, and shall not be subjected to any reduction whatsoever. The whole conformably to the arrets of the council issued in France the 29th June, 2d July, 1764, 29th and 31st December, 1765.

“ II. In order to ascertain the British property of this paper at the period, and according to the meaning of the declaration annexed to the last treaty of peace with France, each proprietor or holder shall be obliged to make a declaration thereof upon oath, in the form and terms which shall be hereafter prescribed, in consequence of a further delay, which his Most Christian Majesty grants them to 1st of October, 1766; after the expiration of which, such of

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1766 the papers as shall not have been declared and tendered to be liquidated, shall remain excluded, null, and of no value.

“ III. These declarations on the part of the proprietors and holders of this paper, shall be accompanied by an oath, to be taken before the lord mayor of the city of London, or such other magistrate in person as shall be named for that purpose, in such place, and at such times, as shall be specified in the presence of the commissaries or deputies appointed, as well on the part of the court of France as on the part of the proprietors of this paper; which commissaries or deputies shall be allowed to ask, through the magistrate who administers the oath, such questions of the deponent as they shall judge necessary, relative to the object of the oath.

“ IV. Each declaration shall contain only what belongs to one holder, whether they are his own property, or held by him for account of others; mentioning therein his name, quality, and place of abode; and this declaration shall be made conformable to the model annexed to the present convention.

“ V. Duplicates shall be made of these declarations, certified to be true, signed by the holders of the said papers, and previously delivered to the English and French commissaries or deputies, who shall be obliged, three days after receiving these declarations, to assist at the taking of the oath before the magistrate appointed for that purpose.

“ VI. As this paper may, since the last treaty of peace, have passed into the hands of three different classes of proprietors, namely, the actual proprietors, the intermediate, and the original; the form of an oath suitable for each class of proprietors shall be prescribed in the three following articles.

[The seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth articles, contain only the forms of oaths.]

“ XI. After the administration of the oaths, there shall, within the space of three days, be delivered to each actual proprietor or holder, a certificate of its being British property by the magistrate who administers the oaths; which certificate shall be revised and signed by the respective commissaries or deputies, and shall contain an account of each sort of paper which shall have been therein proved British property; in order, that by means of this voucher, the possessor may present his paper to the office of the commission at Paris, there to be examined, revised, and liquidated, and converted into reconnoissances, or rent contracts, according to the reduction fixed and agreed upon: every thing shall meet with all possible dispatch, and the holders of this paper shall be at no expence whatsoever.

“ XII. In case any unforeseen accident shall have deprived any actual proprietor of this paper of an intermediate proof between him and the first proprietor who received it from Canada, so as that the proofs which precede and follow that which ought to join them, and which is missing, seem to have report and belong to each other; in that case only the respective commissaries or deputies shall be empowered to admit the paper it relates to as British property, if they think proper, notwithstanding the deficiency which shall have broke the link of the proof: and if the respective commissaries or deputies shall chance to differ in opinion, the decision of the object in question shall be referred to his Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State, and to the ambassador of his most Christian Majesty

“ XIII. In virtue of the foregoing arrangement, the court of France grants to the British proprietors of this paper, an indemnification of premium of 3,000,000 of livres Tournois, payable in the following manner, viz. 500,000 livres Tournois, which shall be paid in specie to his Britannic Majesty's ambassador at Paris in the course of April next; and 2,500,000 livres Tournois, in reconnoissances or rent contracts, of the same nature as those which shall be
given

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1766 given for the 50 and 25 per cent. on the capitals of the bills of exchange, cards, ordonnances, &c. but the interest of which shall only run from January 1, 1766; which sum of 2,500,000 livres Tournois, shall be delivered to the aforesaid ambassador immediately after the ratification and exchange of the present convention, in reconnoissance of 1,000 livres Tournois each, on the express condition, that all the Canada paper belonging to British subjects, not liquidated, shall share the same fate for its reimbursement as French paper, and shall come in course of payment with the debts of the state, the reconnoissances or rent contracts whereof shall be paid as the other debts, without being subjected to any reduction whatsoever; and on the further condition, that all the English proprietors of the said paper shall give up every particular indemnification from any cause and pretext whatsoever.

"XIV. The solemn ratifications of the present convention shall be exchanged in good and due form, in this city of London, between the two courts, within the space of one month, or sooner if it be possible, to be reckoned from the day of signing the present convention.

"In witness whereof, we the under-written ministers plenipotentiary of the said two courts, have signed in their names, and by virtue of our full powers, the present convention, and caused it to be sealed with our arms.

"Done at London, this 29th day of March, 1766.

"H. S. CONWAY, (L. S.)

"COUNT DE GUERCHY, (L. S.)"

In consequence of this convention, the committee of London merchants appointed by the holders, &c. of Canada bills, presented the following memorial:

"That the 13 articles of the convention made with the court of France, for the final settlement of the Canada bills, is, of itself, insufficient to explain to the proprietors of the said bills, in what manner the sum of three millions of livres, granted by the court of France, as an indemnification or premium, is to be distributed.

"Therefore humbly solicit your Excellency to permit the following explanation, which is founded on the committee's proposition for the payment of these papers, delivered on the 27th of December last, to be annexed to the convention, and published therewith, for the information of all whom it may concern.

"And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

London, April 28, 1766.

"BROOK WATSON,

"ROBERT ALLEN,

"FRANCIS RYBOT.

"ROBERT HUNTER,

"ISIDORE LYNCH,

"CHARLES CROCKAT,

"WILLIAM GREENWOOD,

"ROBERT GRANT,

"DANIEL VIALARS."

The committee's explanation, relative to the distribution of the 3,000,000 of livres granted by the Court of France, as a premium or indemnification in the thirteenth article of the foregoing convention.

"This indemnification having been granted by the Court of France, in consequence of repeated propositions made by the committee appointed for the management of this business, and approved of by the proprietors and holders of the said papers at various general meetings assembled

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1766 assembled for that purpose, at which the distribution of the said indemnification or premium, which was the basis of the convention since acceded to, was determined and agreed upon.

" The committee think it a duty incumbent on them, for the better information of every British proprietor or holder of Canada paper, to publish the particulars of the said distribution, which they are now enabled to do with precision.

" In order to form a judgment, as near as possible, of the value of each kind of paper, it will be necessary to lay before the public a state thereof, as it will stand reduced, agreeable to the terms of the convention, and an account of the proportional part of the indemnification or premium of 3,000,000 of livres, which each species of paper will be entitled to receive, after the closing of the liquidation; *i. e.* the first of October next.

" By the most exact estimates which it has been possible to make, as well as by the registers of the Court of France, it appears, that there still exists unliquidated,

	<i>Livres.</i>
" Bills of exchange and certificates about, — — —	4,000,000
" Ordonnances and cards, &c. — — —	12,000,000
Total,	16,000,000

" Which, when liquidated and converted into reconnoissances, will produce as under :

" Four millions paid at 50 per cent. — — —	2,000,000
" Twelve millions at 25 per cent. — — —	3,000,000
" The capital of the liquidated debt, — — —	5,000,000

" The distribution of the 2,500,000 livres in reconnoissances, and the 500,000 livres in specie, agreeable to the proposition, in consequence of which the same was obtained, will be as follows :

	<i>Livres in recon-</i>
" On the ordonnances and other papers payable on the footing of 25 per cent. — — —	<i>noissances.</i> 1,500,000
" On the same, being a proportional part of the remaining million of reconnoissances, which is to be divided on the liquidated capital of the whole debt, which amounts to the computed sum of 5,000,000, — — —	600,000
Total,	2,100,000

" The 500,000 livres in specie, being granted as an equivalent for the loss which would arise by receiving the 2,500,000 livres for the indemnification in reconnoissances, it must be proportionably divided in the same manner as the reconnoissances, viz. if 2,500,000 livres receive 500,000 livres, what will 2,100,000 receive? Answer, 420,000 livres in specie.

" To be divided in the month of November next, on the supposed 12,000,000 of ordonnances, cards, &c. — — — 2,520,000

" On the bills of exchange, and such certificates as are paid on the footing of 50 per cent. the remaining part of the million of reconnoissances, — — — 400,000

" Proportion of the 500,000 in specie, being 1-5th or 20 per cent. on 400,000, — — — 80,000

" Total on the bills of exchange, &c. — — — 480,000

" Amount of indemnification granted, — — — 3,000,000

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"The above recited sum of 3,000,000 of livres, will be paid by the committee in November next, to such proprietors who shall, in the October preceding, produce to them a certificate signed by the English commissary, appointed to adjust the liquidation of these effects, certifying, that such sums as those on which the proprietors demand a proportion of the indemnification or premium, had been proved on oath to have been British property, in conformity to the tenor of the convention. This certificate to be accompanied with a bordereau of liquidation made at Paris, and certified to be true by the commissioners appointed by his Most Christian Majesty to liquidate the Canada bills.

"BROOK WATSON.

"ROBERT ALLEN.

"FRANCIS RYBÖT.

"ROBERT HUNTER.

"ISIDORE LYNCH.

"CHARLES CROCKAT.

"WILLIAM GREENWOOD.

"ROBERT GRANT.

"DANIEL VIALARS."

In this year also, an advantageous commercial treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Russia, in the arrangement of which, and removing those obstacles which impeded its completion, much praise is due to the zeal, industry, and abilities of Sir George, now Lord Macartney, the then British minister at the court of Petersburg.

We shall be justified, by every commercial consideration, in giving this treaty at large.

"Article I. The peace, friendship, and good understanding, which have hitherto happily subsisted between their Majesties of Great Britain and of all the Russias, shall be ratified and confirmed by this treaty; so that from this time forward, and in all time coming, there shall be between the crown of Great Britain on the one hand, and the crown of all the Russias on the other; as also between the states, countries, kingdoms, dominions, and territories, that are subject to them, a true, sincere, firm, and perfect peace, friendship, and good understanding, which shall last for ever, and shall be inviolably observed, as well by sea as by land, and on the fresh waters; and the subjects, people and inhabitants on the one part and on the other, of what state or condition soever they be, shall perform to each other all acts of kindness and assistance possible, and shall not do one another any hurt or injury whatever.

"II. The subjects of the two high contracting powers, shall have full liberty of navigation and commerce in all the states situated in Europe, where navigation and commerce are permitted at present, or shall be permitted hereafter by the high contracting parties, to any other nation.

"III. It is agreed, that the subjects of the two high contracting parties shall have leave to enter, trade, and remain with their ships, boats and carriages, loaded or unloaded, in all the ports, places and towns, where such leave is granted to the subjects of any other nation; and the sailors, passengers and ships, as well British as Russian, though there should be among their crews subjects of some other foreign nation, shall be received and treated as the most favoured nation; and neither the sailors nor passengers shall be forced to enter, against their will, into the service of either of the two contracting powers, excepting, however, such of their subjects as they may want for their own proper service; and if a domestic or sailor desert his service or his ship, he shall be restored. It is likewise agreed, that the subjects of the high

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1766 contracting parties shall have leave to purchase, at the current price, all sorts of commodities of which they may stand in need; to repair and refit their ships, boats and carriages; to purchase all kinds of provisions for their present subsistence of their voyage; and to remain or depart at their pleasure, without let or impediment, provided they conform to the laws and ordinances of the respective states of the high contracting parties where they may happen to be. In like manner the Russian ships that are navigating the sea, and are met by English ships, shall not be impeded in the course of their voyage, provided, in the British sea, they conform to the established practice; but, on the contrary, shall receive from them all kind of assistance, as well in the ports of the dominion of Great Britain as in the open sea.

“ IV. It is agreed, that the subjects of Great Britain shall be at liberty to bring, by water or by land, into all or into such provinces of Russia, where freedom of trade is permitted to the subjects of any other nation, all sorts of merchandize or effects, the traffic or entry of which is not prohibited: and in like manner the subjects of Russia shall be at liberty to bring, buy and sell freely, in all, or in such states of Great Britain where freedom of trade is permitted to the subjects of any other nation, all sorts of merchandize and effects, the traffic and entry of which is not prohibited; which is also to be equally understood of the manufactures and products of the Asiatic provinces, provided this is not actually forbid by some law at present in force in Great Britain; comprehending all sorts of merchandize effects, which the subjects of any other nation may buy there, and transport into other countries, particularly wrought gold and silver, excepting the current coin of Great Britain; and in order to preserve a just equality between the Russian and British merchants, with regard to the exportation of provisions and other commodities, it is further stipulated, that the subjects of Russia shall pay the same duties on exportation, that are paid by the British merchants on exporting the same effects from the ports of Russia; but then each of the high contracting parties shall reserve to itself the liberty of making, in the interior parts of its dominions, such particular arrangements as it shall find expedient for encouraging and extending its own navigation. The Russian merchants shall enjoy the same liberties and privileges as the British merchants of the Russian company enjoy; and, as the design of the two high contracting parties, and the intention of this treaty, is to facilitate the reciprocal commerce of their subjects, and to extend its limits and mutual advantages, it is agreed, that the British merchants trading in the dominions of Russia, shall have liberty, in case of death, a pressing exigency, or absolute necessity, when there are no other means of procuring money, or in case of bankruptcy, to dispose of their effects, whether of Russian or foreign merchandize, in such manner as the persons concerned shall find most advantageous. The same thing shall be observed with regard to the Russian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain. All which, however, is to be understood with this restriction, that every sort of permission, on the one side and on the other, specified in this article, shall not be in any thing contrary to the laws of the country; and the British, as well as the Russian merchants and their factors, shall punctually conform to the rights, statutes and ordinances of the country where they trade, in order to prevent all kind of fraud and imposition. It is for this reason, that the decision of such events happening to the British compting-houses in Russia, shall be submitted, at Petersburg, to the college of commerce, and in other towns where there is no college of commerce, to the tribunals that have the cognizance of commercial affairs.

“ V. It is agreed, that the subjects of Great Britain, if they have no rixdollars to pay the customs or other duties for the merchandize which they import or export, shall be allowed to pay

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1766 pay them in other foreign coin of a known name and established value, equal to that of the rixdollar, or in the current coin of Russia, the rixdollar valued at 125 copecs (or pennies).

“ VI. All possible assistance and dispatch shall be given to the loading and unloading of ships, as well for the importation as the exportation of commodities, according to the regulations on that head established; and they shall not be in any manner detained, under the penalties denounced in the said regulations. In like manner, if the subjects of Great Britain make contracts with any chancery or college whatever to deliver certain commodities or effects, upon notifying that such commodities are ready to be delivered, and after they shall have been actually delivered at the time specified in these contracts, they shall be received; and immediately thereupon, the accounts shall be settled and cleared between the said college or chancery and the British merchants, at the time fixed in the said contracts. The same conduct shall be observed towards Russian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain.

“ VII. It is agreed, that the subjects of Great Britain may, in all the towns and places of Russia where freedom of trade is permitted to any other nation, pay for the commodities they purchase in the same current coin of Russia which they take for the commodities they sell, unless in their contracts they have stipulated the contrary; and this ought equally to be understood of Russian commodities in the dominions of Great Britain.

“ VIII. In the places where embarkations are ordinarily made, permission shall be granted to the subjects of the high contracting parties, to load their ships and carriages with, and transport by water or by land, all such sorts of commodities as they shall have purchased, (with an exception, however, of those whose exportation is prohibited) upon paying the customs, provided these ships and carriages conform to the laws.

“ IX. The subjects of the high contracting parties shall pay no greater duty for the importation or exportation of their commodities than is paid by the subjects of other nations.— Nevertheless, to prevent, on both sides, the defrauding of the customs, if it should be discovered that commodities have been entered clandestinely, and without paying the customs, they shall be confiscated; but, besides that, no other punishment shall be inflicted upon the merchants on either side.

“ X. Permission shall be granted to the subjects of the two contracting parties to go, come, and trade freely with those states, with which one or other of the parties shall at that time, or at any future period, be engaged in war, provided they do not carry military stores to the enemy. From this permission, however, are excepted places actually blocked up, or besieged, as well by sea as by land; but, at all other times, and with the single exception of military stores, the above-said subjects may transport to these places all sorts of commodities, as well as passengers, without the least impediment. With regard to the searching of merchant ships, men of war and privateers shall behave as favourably as the reason of the war, at that time existing, can possibly permit towards the most friendly powers that shall remain neuter; observing, as far as may be, the principles and maxims of the law of nations, that are generally acknowledged.

“ XI. All cannon, mortars, muskets, pistols, bombs, grenades, bullets, balls, fuses, flintstones, matches, powder, saltpetre, sulphur, breast-plates, pikes, swords, belts, cartouch-bags, saddles and bridles, beyond the quantity that may be necessary for the use of the ship, or beyond what every man serving on board the ship, and every passenger ought to have, shall be accounted ammunition or military stores; and, if found, shall be confiscated, according to law, as contraband goods, or prohibited commodities; but neither the ships nor passengers,

nor

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1766 nor the other commodities found at the same time, shall be detained or hindered to prosecute their voyage.

“ XII. If, which God forbid! the peace should come to be broke between the two high contracting parties, the persons, ships, and commodities, shall not be detained or confiscated; but they shall be allowed, at least, the space of one year, to sell, dispose, or carry off their effects, and to retire wherever they please; a stipulation that is to be equally understood of all those who shall be in the sea or land service: and they shall farther be permitted, either at or before their departure, to consign the effects which they shall not as yet have disposed of, as well as the debts that shall be due to them, to such persons as they shall think proper, in order to dispose of them according to their desire, and for their benefit; which debts, the debtors shall be obliged to pay in the same manner as if no such rupture had happened.

“ XIII. In case of a shipwreck happening in any place belonging to one or other of the high contracting parties, not only shall all kind of assistance be given to the unhappy sufferers, and no sort of violence shall be offered to them, but even the effects which they shall have saved themselves, or which they shall have thrown overboard into the sea, shall not be concealed, withheld, or damaged, under any pretext whatsoever; on the contrary, the above-said effects and commodities shall be preserved and restored to them, upon their giving a moderate recompence to those who shall have assisted them in saving their lives, their ships, and their commodities.

“ XIV. Permission shall be granted to British merchants to build, buy, sell, and hire houses in all the territories and towns of Russia; excepting, however, with regard to the permission of building and buying houses in those towns of Russia which have particular rights of burghership, and privileges inconsistent with such indulgence; and it is expressly specified, that at St. Peterburgh, Moscow, and Archangel, the houses which the British merchants shall buy, or cause to be built, shall be exempt from all quartering of soldiers, as long as they shall belong to them, and shall be inhabited by them; but with regard to the houses which they shall hire or let, these shall be subject to all the usual charges of the town; the tenant and landlord settling that matter between them. As to every other town of Russia, the houses which they shall purchase or cause to be built, in the same manner as those which they shall hire or let, shall not be exempted from the quartering of soldiers. Permission shall likewise be granted the Russian merchants to build, buy, sell, and let houses in Great Britain and Ireland, in the same manner as is done by the subjects of the most favoured nations. They shall enjoy the free exercise of the Greek religion in their houses, or in such places as are destined for that purpose; and in like manner the British merchants shall enjoy the free exercise of the Protestant religion. The subjects of either power, established in Russia or in Great Britain, shall have power to dispose of their estates, and to leave them by will to whomsoever they think proper, following the customs and laws of their own proper country.

“ XV. Passports shall be granted to all British subjects who desire to quit the dominions of Russia, two months after they shall have signified their design of departing, without obliging them to give security; and if, in that time there appear no just cause for detaining them, they shall be allowed to go; nor shall they be obliged to apply, for that purpose, to any other quarter than to the college of commerce, or to that which may hereafter be established in its place. The same easy methods of departing shall, upon like occasions, and agreeable to the custom of the country, be granted to Russian merchants, who want to quit the dominions of Great Britain.

“ XVI. British

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“ XVI. British merchants, who shall hire or employ domestics, shall, in this particular, be obliged to conform themselves to the laws of this empire. And Russian merchants shall be equally obliged to do the same in Great Britain.

“ XVII. In all law-suits, and other proceedings, the British merchants shall be amenable only to the college of commerce, or to that which shall hereafter be established for the administration of justice between merchants. But, if it should happen that the British merchants should have law-suits in any place at a distance from the above-mentioned college of commerce, both they and the adverse party shall prefer their complaints to the magistrate of the said towns; with this proviso, however, that the British merchants shall have the right to appeal from the sentence of the magistrate, and to demand that of the college of commerce, if they find themselves aggrieved. The Russian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain, shall, in their turn, have the same protection and justice, which, according to the laws of that kingdom, are granted to other foreign merchants, and shall be treated as the subjects of the most favoured nation.

“ XVIII. The British merchants in Russia, and the Russian merchants in Great Britain, shall not be obliged to shew their books or papers to any person whatever, unless it be to make proof in the court of justice; still less shall the said books or papers be taken or detained from them. If, however, the case should happen, that any British merchant becomes bankrupt, he shall be amenable at St. Petersburg to the college of commerce, or to that which shall hereafter be established for the administration of justice in mercantile affairs; and in other remote towns, to the magistrate of the place; and he shall be proceeded against according to the laws that are or shall be made for this purpose. Nevertheless, if the British merchants, without becoming bankrupt, refuse to pay their debts, whether to the treasury of her Imperial Majesty, or to individuals, it shall be lawful to lay an arrest upon part of their effects equivalent to their debts; and, in case these effects should not be sufficient for discharging such debts, they may themselves be arrested and detained in custody, until such time as the greater part of their creditors, as well with respect to number, as to the value of their respective demands, have consented to their enlargement. With regard to their effects laid under arrest, they shall remain as a deposit in the hands of those who shall be named and duly authorised for that purpose, by the greater part of their creditors, as is above specified; which delegates shall be obliged to appraise the effects as soon as possible, and to make a just and fair distribution of them to all the creditors, in proportion to their respective demands. The same procedure shall, in like cases, be observed towards the Russian merchants in the dominions of Great Britain, and they shall be there protected agreeably to the regulations made in the preceding article.

“ XIX. In case of complaints and law-suits, three persons of fair and unblemished character among the foreign merchants, shall, with a proper regard to circumstances, be named by the college of commerce; and where there is no such college, by the magistrate, to examine the books and papers of the parties; and the report they shall make to the college of commerce, or to the magistrate, of what they shall find in the said books or papers, shall be held a good proof.

“ XX. The commissioners of the customs shall have the charge of examining the servants or clerks of the Russian merchants, when they cause their goods to be entered, whether they have, for that effect, the orders or full powers of the masters; and if they have not such, they shall not be credited. The same conduct shall be observed towards the servants of the British merchants; and, when the said servants, having the orders or full powers of their masters, shall

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1766 shall cause their goods to be entered on account of their masters, these last shall be as responsible as if they themselves had caused them to be entered. All the Russian servants employed in the shops shall likewise be registered, and their masters shall answer for them in the affairs of trade, and in the bargains which they make in their name.

“ XXI. In case the Russian merchants who are indebted to the British merchants withdraw from the places of their abode to other parts or districts, the college of commerce, after complaints shall have been made to them on the subject, and proofs of the debts have been adduced, shall cite them three times, allowing them a sufficient space to appear in person; and if they do not appear within the term prescribed, the said college shall condemn them, and shall send, at the expence of the plaintiff, an express to the governors and waywodes, with orders to put the sentence in execution, and thus shall oblige the debtors to pay the sums specified.

“ XXII. The brokerage shall be settled with justice, and the brokers shall be responsible for the qualities of the goods and fraudulent package; and shall be obliged, after sufficient proofs produced against them, to make up the losses to which they have given occasion.

“ XXIII. A regulation shall be made to prevent the abuses that may be committed in the package of leather, hemp, and flax; and, if any dispute happen between the buyer and the seller concerning the weight or the tare, the commissioners of the customs shall determine it according to equity.

“ XXIV. In order the more effectually to encourage and promote the trade of Great Britain, it is agreed, that, for the future, the English woollen cloths hereafter specified, shall not pay any greater duties on entry than are settled in this article: viz. English cloth for the use of the soldiery, shall pay, in rixdollars, only two copecs, or pennies, for every arsheen, or $7\frac{1}{4}$ yards, as a duty on entry; coarse cloth of the county of York, known in the Russian tariff by the name of Costrogy, shall only pay two copecs for every arsheen: broad flannel shall only pay one copec per arsheen; narrow flannel shall only pay three-fourths of a copec per arsheen, all as duty on entry. And in every thing that regards the imposts and duties payable on the importation or exportation of commodities in general, the subjects of Great Britain shall always be considered and treated as the most favoured nation.

“ XXV. The peace, friendship, and good understanding shall continue for ever between the high contracting parties; and, as it is customary to fix a certain term to the duration of treaties of commerce, the above-mentioned high contracting parties have agreed, that this treaty shall continue for twenty years, counting from the day of signing; and after the expiration of that term, they may agree upon the means to renew and prolong it.

“ XXVI. The present treaty of navigation and commerce shall be approved and ratified by his Britannic Majesty and by her Imperial Majesty; and the ratifications, in due and lawful form, shall be exchanged at St. Petersburg, in the space of three months, or sooner, if possible, counting from the day of signing.

“ In witness whereof, we, the under-signed, in virtue of the full powers granted to us by his Majesty the King of Great Britain, and by her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, have signed the present treaty, and thereto set our seals. Done at St. Petersburg, this 20th day of June, 1766.

“ George Macartney, (L. S.) Nikita Panin, (L. S.)
(L. S.) Ernest, Count Munich.
(L. S.) Pr. A. Galitzin.
(L. S.) Gr. Teploff.”

At

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1766 At this period, addresses from the cities of London, Bristol, and Norwich, as well as other considerable corporations, &c. were presented to his Majesty on the high price of corn; in consequence of which, three royal proclamations were issued as follow :

The first, dated September 10, for putting the laws in execution against forestalling, regrating, and engrossing, &c.

The second, dated September 26, for laying an embargo on all ships laden, or to be laden in the ports of Great Britain, with wheat or wheat flour, to be exported to foreign parts, and to continue the same to the 14th of November following.

The third, of the same date, for prohibiting the distillation of spirits from any wheat, wheat meal, wheat flour, &c. to the 14th of November.

The city of Norwich, in the instructions it transmitted to its representatives in Parliament, on the dearth and scarcity of provisions of all sorts at this time, stated, " that unless some method could be discovered to restrain this growing evil, it would prove fatal to the woollen manufacture, which," these instructions add, " had not been preserved without the greatest difficulty."

On the meeting of Parliament in November, the two Houses addressed the Throne on the occasion; in consequence of which, his Majesty was pleased to issue another proclamation for continuing the embargo already laid on the exportation of corn, &c. for which acts of indemnity also passed to such persons as carried the above orders of council into execution.

The following is a correct account of the number of ships, which were entered inwards and cleared outwards during this year, from the ports of Liverpool and Bristol, including only one arrival for the same vessel :

LIVERPOOL.		BRISTOL.	
Inward.	Outward.	Inward.	Outward.
British, 738	795	British, 384	319
Foreign, 65	70	Foreign, 47	44
—	—	—	—
803	865	431	363
—	—	—	—

The following bills, among several others, received the royal assent in the course of this year.

To prohibit, for a limited time, the exportation of corn, &c.

For allowing the free importation of oats.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of Irish provisions, for a further limited time.

To make a navigable cut or canal from Little Gevendraeth river in the county of Caermarthen.

For repealing the American stamp act.

For securing the dependency of the colonies to the British crown.

For regulating the duties on the importation of Russia linen.

For regulating pilots in the port of Liverpool.

For repealing certain rates and duties on cyder and perry, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For the improvement of tillage.

To explain an act for the improvement of tillage so far as relates to the city of London.

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- To encourage the leather manufactory, &c.
- For improving and preserving the navigation of the river Stort in the counties of Hertford and Essex.
- For redeeming certain consolidated annuities; with respect to navy, victualling and transport bills.
- To make a navigable cut or canal from or near Wilden Ferry in Staffordshire, to communicate with the river Mersey, in Lancashire.
- To make the river Soar navigable from the river Trent, to or near Loughborough in the county of Leicester.
- To make a navigable cut from the river Severn, between Tilton bridge, in the county of Worcester, to communicate with a canal intended to be made between the Trent and Mersey.
- For better regulating apprentices and journeymen.
- To regulate the loading of ships with coals in the ports of Sunderland and Newcastle.
- To prohibit the importation of foreign wrought filks and velvets for a limited time, and to prevent unlawful combinations of workmen employed in the silk manufacture.
- To prohibit the importation of foreign mitts and gloves.
- To prevent the fraudulent marking of frame work, knitted stockings and pieces.
- For extending the duties on houses, windows, &c.
- For establishing four free ports in the British West India Islands.
- For repealing certain duties on goods in the colonies, and also on East India goods exported from Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.
- For laying additional duties on spirits.
- For amending an act relating to wines imported, and for securing the stamp duties for copies of court rolls, &c.
- For laying an additional duty on the importation of filks, crapes, and taffeties, and for allowing the exportation of gums to Ireland.
- For making the Chelmer navigable from Malden to Chelmsford.
- For allowing the exportation of salt from Europe to Quebec.
- For amending the act for regulating buildings and preventing fires.
- For explaining the act to prevent frauds in the admeasurement of coals.
- To continue an act for the importation of salted beef, pork, bacon, and butter from Ireland, &c.
- To amend an act for regulating certain duties in the British colonies and plantations, and also the duties upon certain East India goods exported from Great Britain, and for granting other duties instead thereof, and for further encouraging, regulating, and securing several branches of the trade of this kingdom and the British dominions in America, as relates to the exportation of non-enumerated goods from the British colonies in America.
- For allowing the importation of wheat and wheat flour from the American colonies, for a limited time, free of duty: and another for oats and oatmeal, rye and ryemeal.

The supplies granted by Parliament for this year, were as follows:				£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 seamen, including 4,287 marines,	—	—	—	832,000	0	0
For 17,306 land forces, and for defraying the charge of his Majesty's guards, garrisons, &c.	—	—	—	605,608	12	9
For the general and general staff officers,	—	—	—	11,291	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Carried over,				1,448,900	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	1,448,900	1	3½
For the maintenance of forces and garrisons in the Plantations, Africa, Gibraltar and Minorca, &c. — — —	392,183	6	5½
For the same service, out of the monies remaining of the grant made in the preceding session, — — —	2,321	13	10½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments to certain troops, &c. — — —	7,993	11	4
For pensions to the widows of reduced land and marine officers, — — —	1,614	0	0
On account of reduced land and marine officers, — — —	138,674	0	0
For defraying the charge of full pay to officers reduced with the tenth company of several battalions, &c. — — —	5,718	6	8
For the out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, — — —	109,875	16	8
To the office of ordnance for land service, — — —	180,445	19	3
For services performed by the office of ordnance for land service, not provided for by Parliament in 1765, — — —	35,061	6	2
To the trustees of the British Museum, — — —	2,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to sea and marine officers, — — —	412,983	6	3
To the building and repair of ships, docks, wharfs, &c. — — —	277,300	0	0
For the extraordinary expence of land forces, &c. incurred to the 24th of January, 1766, not provided for by Parliament, — — —	404,310	16	6¾
Out of the savings arising from the pay of the land forces in the hands of the Paymaster General, towards defraying extraordinary expences of the land forces, &c. not provided for by Parliament, — — —	74,777	14	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, &c. — — —	1,000,000	0	0
Ditto, — — —	800,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency of certain rates and duties, &c. — — —	45,561	7	10½
To replace to ditto the like sum issued thereout for paying certain annuities, which were granted in respect of navy, victualling and transport bills, &c. by an act of the third of George III. — — —	139,342	2	4
To replace to ditto, the like sum issued thereout for paying the charges of management of the said annuities, &c. — — —	4,898	14	9½
To replace to ditto, the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency of certain duties on wines, cyder and perry, which were appropriated by the third of George III. to pay certain annuities, — — —	29,211	12	6
For the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, — — —	4,866	3	5
For fundry expences for Nova Scotia in several preceding years, not provided for by Parliament, — — —	8,008	12	7
For the civil establishment of Georgia, and incidental expences, — — —	3,986	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, — — —	5,250	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, — — —	5,300	0	0
For general surveys in North America, — — —	1,784	4	0
Carried over,	4,093,468	14	8¾

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,093,468	14	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
For the civil establishment of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum issued thereout, to discharge certain annuities, &c.	8,708	17	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
For the pay, &c. of the militia,	150,000	0	0
For the British forts and settlements, &c. in Africa,	13,000	0	0
For unsatisfied claims on account of the late war in Germany,	106,043	13	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
To the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel in extinction of all demands,	50,000	0	0
To the Foundling Hospital,	32,725	0	0
Monies remaining unissued of those granted in the last session, for the use of the said hospital,	1,167	10	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	1,200,000	0	0
For the redemption of one third part of the capital stock of certain annuities, granted in respect of navy, victualling and transport bills, &c.	870,888	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of 1765,	292,828	0	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total of supplies granted this session,	8,273,280	2	6 $\frac{5}{8}$
Ways and means for this year, viz.			
Malt duty,	750,000	0	0
Land tax,	2,037,824	15	11
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	1,500,000	0	0
The excess of grants for the payment, &c. of the militia in 1765,	80,000	0	0
From the monies agreed to be paid by the King of France, for the maintenance of prisoners,	181,000	0	0
From the monies, remaining in the receipt of the Exchequer for the disposition of Parliament, as were reserved by the fourth of his Majesty for defraying certain expences relative to the securing the British colonies,	60,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	2,150,000	0	0
Total ways and means,	8,558,824	15	11
Excess of the provisions,	285,543	16	2 $\frac{1}{2}$

We now proceed to a correct account of the extraordinary duties imposed by Parliament for the national service of this year.

February 21.—Provision was made, to remove all doubts concerning the ascertaining of the duties payable upon the importation of linen cloth of the manufacture of Russia, in pursuance of the act of last session, and for supplying an omission in that act, by declaring that all unrated linen cloth and diaper of Russia, being in breadth more than 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ and not 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, were by the said act intended to be rated at 4l. for every 120 English ells thereof.

March 10.—The duties granted upon cyder and perry by the act of the third of George III. were voted to cease and be no longer paid, from and after June 5; and an additional duty of 6s. per

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April 21.—The several rates and duties payable upon houses in Great Britain, were voted to cease and determine from and after October 10, 1766; and from the said October 10, there should be paid upon every dwelling house, inhabited, within that part of Great Britain called England, the yearly sum of 3s.: and upon every inhabited dwelling house in Scotland, the yearly sum of 1s.

The several rates and duties, payable for windows or lights in Great Britain, also ceased and determined from October 10, 1766, and the following rates and duties were granted in lieu thereof, viz. for every window or light, in every dwelling house inhabited within the kingdom of Great Britain, which shall contain seven windows or lights, and no more, the yearly sum of 2d. for each window or light in such house: for every dwelling-house containing eight windows, the yearly sum of 6d. for each window; and an advance of 2d. upon each window from that number to thirteen, inclusive, the last number paying 1s. 4d. for each: every house containing from thirteen to nineteen windows, inclusive, to pay 1s. 6d. upon each window: and from nineteen to twenty-four, inclusive, an advance of 1d. upon each window, twenty-four paying 1s. 11d.: and for every house containing twenty-five windows and upwards, 2s. for every such window.

April 29.—Provision was made, for declaring that the additional duties, granted by an act of the third year of his Majesty's reign, upon wines imported, were, by the said act, intended to be paid without any discount or deduction inwards, or drawback on re-exportation.

May 5.—Liberty was granted to export coals from Great Britain to the islands of Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney, annually, free of the duty laid upon all coals exported, by the act of last session, viz. to Guernsey any quantity of coals not exceeding 100 chaldrons, Newcastle measure, from the port of Newcastle, and 150 such chaldrons from Swansea; to Jersey 350 from Newcastle, and 150 from Swansea; and to Alderney 110 from Newcastle, and 10 from Swansea.

May 8.—Provision was made for declaring, that the power granted by an act of the second of George III. chap. 5. to remove spirits made for exportation to warehouses for home consumption, should extend to such spirits only as are made from corn, malt, or melasses.

From August 1, 1766, there was voted to be paid to his Majesty, upon every pound weight avoirdupois of Italian wrought filks, called crapes or tiffanies, imported, a duty of 17s. 6d. to be paid by the importer, above the duties now payable thereon; and that the produce of the said duty be carried to the sinking fund.

A quantity not exceeding thirty tons weight, in any one year, of gum Senega and Arabic, was allowed to be exported, free of duty, under proper regulations and restrictions, to Ireland, for the use of the manufacturers there.

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Authority was given, to permit, under proper regulations and restrictions, the importation into this kingdom, from the Isle of Man, of such bugles as were brought into the said isle before March 1, 1765, on payment of one half of the old subsidy only.

May 10.—All the duties then payable on the importation of cotton wool into this kingdom, were ordered to cease and determine; and a duty of 3s. per piece was laid upon all foreign cambrics and French lawns, which should be exported from this kingdom to the British colonies in America.

The duties imposed by an act made in the last session, upon the exportation from this kingdom of wrought silks, Bengals and stuffs, mixed with silk or herba, of the manufacture of Persia, China, or East India, and callicoes, printed, dyed, painted, or stained there, also ceased and determined: and there was granted to his Majesty, on all such wrought silks, Bengals, and stuffs, mixed with silk, &c. of the manufacture of Persia, China, or East India, and callicoes, printed, dyed, painted, or stained there, as should have been publicly sold in this kingdom on or before a certain day, to be limited, a subsidy of poundage after the rate of 1s. for every 20s. of the value of such goods, according to the gross price at which the same were originally sold at the public sales thereof; such subsidy to be paid by the proprietors of the said goods: there was also granted to his Majesty, a like subsidy upon all such wrought silks, Bengals, stuffs, and callicoes, as should be publicly sold on or after such day to be limited, the said subsidy to be paid by the East India Company, for such of the said goods as should be sold at their public sales, and by the buyers of the said goods, at any other public sale.

All sugars which should be imported into this kingdom, from any British colony in America, were made subject to the like duties as were then payable upon the importation of French sugars.

May 14.—Every gallon of single brandy spirits or aqua vitæ, imported into Great Britain from beyond the seas, not being the produce of the British colonies or plantations, was charged with an additional duty of 6d. before landing, to be paid by the importer: and every gallon of brandy spirits, or aqua vitæ, above proof, called double brandy, imported into Great Britain from beyond the seas, not being the produce of the said colonies, was charged an additional duty of 1s. to be paid by the importer before landing.

For encouraging the exportation of hempen cordage manufactured in Great Britain, from hemp imported from foreign parts, and also from hemp of the growth of Great Britain, there was allowed a bounty of 2s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for every hundred weight of such cordage so exported; the said bounty to be paid upon the exportation, out of the net duties which had been, or should be, paid upon the importation of all foreign hemp into this kingdom; and the drawback of 2s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. then payable on all foreign hemp exported from Great Britain to foreign parts, was ordered to cease and determine.

Such part of the duties laid, by a resolution of this House of the 10th instant, upon sugars imported into this kingdom from any British colony in America, as should arise over and above the duties then payable upon sugars so imported, were ordered to be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer, and reserved for the disposition of Parliament.

The duty of 3s. laid by a resolution of the House of Commons, upon every piece of cambric and French lawn exported from this kingdom to the British colonies in America, was also ordered to be paid into the said receipt, and reserved for the disposition and appropriation of Parliament.

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May 16.—The following duties were voted:—1l. 10s. sterling, for every negro which should be exported in foreign vessels from the island of Jamaica; 1l. 10s. sterling, for every negro which should be imported into the island of Dominica; 6d. sterling for every barrel of beef and pork imported into the said island; 6d. sterling for every firkin of butter imported into the said island; 6d. sterling for every hundred weight avoirdupois of sugar imported into the said island; 2s. sterling for every hundred weight avoirdupois of cocoa imported into the said island; 6d. sterling for every hundred gallons of melasses imported into the said island; 6d. sterling for every hundred weight avoirdupois of coffee imported into the said island: the said duties were to be applied in defraying the expence of carrying into execution such directions and regulations, as might be given and made by any act in that session of Parliament, for opening and establishing any ports in the said island, for the more free importation and exportation of goods and merchandize, and for maintaining, securing, and improving, such ports. No other duties were to be paid upon the importation of any foreign American goods, in any such port in the island of Dominica. All goods of American produce, which should be imported into this kingdom, from such ports as might be so opened, in the said island of Dominica, were to be deemed foreign, and made subject to the said duties respectively, as were then payable upon the importation of the like goods, of the produce of the French plantations in America, except only certain quantities of sugars, coffee, cocoa, pimento, and ginger, the amount of the importation whereof should be limited, under proper regulations and restrictions, in respect of the produce of the said goods, within the said island. The said duties were appropriated to such uses, as the duties upon such foreign goods were then applicable.

A general statement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out January 5, 1766, with the annual interest, &c.

	<i>Principal Debt.</i>			<i>Annual Interest, &c.</i>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer, — —	2,019,981	12	9½	152,954	4	8
East India Company, —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, —	100,768,609	17	9¾	3,252,392	2	4½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—						
Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as also on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the subscribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the service of the year 1762, together with the charges of management						
to the Bank of England, — —	—	—	—	336,115	10	3
South Sea Company, —	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	1½
Total,	130,713,901	4	6¾	4,698,656	15	5

* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on pensions, nor the 1,000,000l. borrowed in 1764, charged on the supplies in 1766, nor the 800,000l. borrowed in 1765, and charged on the said supplies.

IMPORTS

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AN HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1765, to CHRISTMAS 1766.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 52,217 3 11	£. 496,789 12 0
Canaries, — — —	10,378 12 6	47,472 13 10
Denmark and Norway, — — —	93,473 0 1	157,064 0 10
East Country, — — —	152,884 16 7	171,869 18 0
East India, — — —	1,975,911 7 9	783,961 17 10
Flanders, — — —	125,211 8 5	433,553 12 7
France, — — —	81,470 13 9	201,032 6 10
Germany, — — —	633,672 17 11	1,811,268 2 3
Greenland, — — —	9,625 5 4	33 0 0
Holland, — — —	374,587 0 1	1,602,924 6 7
Ireland, — — —	1,154,982 4 7	1,920,015 19 6
Italy, — — —	812,170 4 0	839,838 7 7
Madeiras, — — —	6,988 17 8	36,260 10 3
Portugal, — — —	347,806 2 2	667,104 7 8
Russia, — — —	684,585 16 5	109,900 16 10
Spain, — — —	558,002 12 7	1,078,731 10 1
Streights, — — —	14,103 13 10	59,678 19 1
Sweden, — — —	195,449 5 9	47,393 18 1
Turkey, — — —	106,522 7 9	100,796 4 4
Venice, — — —	63,105 7 9	42,643 10 0
Alderney, — — —	82 5 0	1,984 0 3
Guernsey, — — —	22,534 2 1	40,059 3 11
Jersey, — — —	12,241 19 4	23,521 5 4
Antigua, — — —	396,465 12 3	142,326 16 7
Anguilla, — — —	3,225 19 11	
Barbadoes, — — —	296,732 16 7	194,042 7 1
Bermudas, — — —	3,475 14 1	11,299 6 3
Canada, — — —	46,982 12 3	366,573 4 11
Carolina, — — —	293,587 7 8	296,732 1 4
Dominica, — — —	111,649 5 9	20,792 6 0
Florida, — — —	2,113 7 7	38,718 14 10
Georgia, — — —	53,074 16 7	67,268 5 5
Granades, — — —	264,194 5 7	89,431 1 9
Havannah, — — —	1,511 3 3	
Hudson's Bay, — — —	10,199 17 6	4,631 6 3
Jamaica, — — —	1,201,801 16 4	415,544 17 4
Martinico, — — —	13 15 0	
Montserrat, — — —	71,762 2 4	26,826 1 10
Nevis, — — —	74,200 16 0	18,989 8 0
New England, — — —	141,773 4 11	409,642 7 6
Newfoundland, — — —	45,207 15 0	65,779 10 9
New Providence, — — —	4,585 9 5	15,085 13 9
New York, — — —	67,020 11 8	330,829 15 8
Nova Scotia, — — —	1,433 9 4	14,181 6 5
Pennsylvania, — — —	26,851 3 1	327,314 5 3
St. Croix, — — —	11,807 3 7	1,425 7 0
St. John's Island, — — —		560 19 2
St. Christopher's, — — —	304,778 9 2	91,736 17 6
St. Lucia, — — —	581 5 0	
St. Vincent, — — —	31,028 1 7	5,325 6 5
St. Eustatia, — — —	96 1 6	
Tobago, — — —		13 2 6
Tortola, — — —	48,280 5 8	18,218 0 7
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	461,693 9 4	372,548 16 1
West Indies in general, — — —		1,673 11 0
Spanish West Indies, — — —	11,601 2 6	3,555 1 11
Totals,	11,475,775 5 8	14,024,964 2 8
Exports exceed the Imports,	2,549,188 17 0	

Extract

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1766 Extract from the general bill of all the christenings and burials within the city of London, from December 10, 1765, to December 11, 1766.

Christened, Males,	8,343	Buried, Males,	11,714
Females,	7,914	Females,	12,197
	16,257		23,911

Amsterdam,—births, 4,547; deaths, 7,271; marriages, 2,936.

Paris,—births, 18,773; deaths, 19,694; foundlings, 5,604.

Venice,—births, 4,984; deaths, 5,171; foundlings, 204.

Copenhagen,—births, 2,643; deaths, 1,939; marriages, 870.

Hamburg,—births, 2,893; deaths, 3,400; marriages, 1,079.

Koningsberg,—births, 2,231; deaths, 2,072; marriages, 708.

Liverpool,—christened, 1,017; buried, 1,025; marriages, 503.

Manchester,—christened, 887; buried, 1,019; marriages, 368.

Chester,—christened, 367; buried, 350; marriages, 153.

Isles of Zealand, Bornholm, and Ferro,—births, 7,256; deaths, 6,363; marriages, 1,853.

Denmark, Norway, and the Danish dominions in Germany,—births, 62,480; deaths, 55,683.

Bailiwick of Aggerhuys, in Norway,—births, 10,280; deaths, 9,135.

The whole kingdom of Prussia,—births, 31,129; deaths, 22,570; marriages, 2,936.

1767 At this period, the dispute between Great Britain and its colonies appeared to have obtained an happy termination.—Their desires had been gratified in the most reasonable manner, and the parent state had testified, by its conduct, the sincerest intentions to remain on the most friendly terms with its American dependencies.

But, in a very short time, the predictions which had been made by many, that the concessions of Great Britain to America, would eventually increase, instead of annihilating the turbulent disposition which the Americans had discovered, began to find a justification in many instances of their conduct.

During the late troubles, a spirit of faction had been conjured up in America, which was not in the least mollified by the concessions of the British government; on the contrary, it seemed to have enlisted under its banners a party of men who were determined to seize every opportunity to diminish the power and influence of the mother country, and whose talents were equal to their enmity; while that enmity was the more dangerous, as it was cloathed in the specious garb of respect and attachment to Great Britain.

When the stamp act was repealed, the ministry who proposed and adopted that measure, thought themselves obliged to save, in some degree, the national honour, to pass a bill, declaratory of the supreme sovereignty of Great Britain over all her colonies, and of her right to bind them, by her laws, in all cases whatever.

By the same declaration, they annulled all the resolves and proceedings of the provincial assemblies, that tended to claim any authority in their respective districts independent of that of Great Britain, especially the sole and exclusive privilege of imposing taxes and levying money.

This declaratory act, which was considered at home as necessary to maintain the dignity of the British government in the midst of so much concession, was regarded by the Americans as a reservation of claims which were to be enforced whenever a favourable opportunity occurred.

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This idea, therefore, which was propagated with no common zeal in the colonies, prevented so large a portion of their late ill-humour from dying away, that the assembly of New York, in direct opposition to an act of the British Parliament, for providing the troops cantoned throughout the colonies, with such necessaries in their quarters as were indispensable for their comfortable subsistence, passed an act, by which these provisions were regulated and settled in a mode of their own, without manifesting the least regard to that prescribed by Great Britain.

When this extraordinary and unexpected transaction was brought before the House of Commons, much debate took place, and some severe measures were proposed; but the general opinion being more disposed to acts of moderation, a bill was passed, by which the governor, council, and assembly of New York were prohibited from passing or assenting to any act of assembly for any purpose whatever, till they had, in every respect, complied with all the terms of this act of the British Parliament.

At Boston, the same refractory spirit prevailed; and notwithstanding the justice of granting due compensations to those who had suffered from the licentiousness of the populace, during the riots on account of the stamp act, the general assembly was not easily persuaded to acquit itself of that duty.

All these proofs of a disobedient temper in the colonies, at length roused the spirit of the British government; and an act of Parliament was passed, which imposed duties on tea, paper, painters colours, and glass imported into the British plantations in America.

This act was received in the colonies with as much disapprobation as that which imposed the stamp duties: the populace renewed its abusive behaviour, and the superior order of people determined to give it steady opposition.

The inhabitants of Boston set the example on this occasion: and, at a public meeting of its freeholders, and other inhabitants, on the 28th of October, in this year, several resolutions were voted, all of which were levelled at their commerce with Great Britain. From some of these votes, which were passed with an unfortunate unanimity, we shall give the following extracts:—

“ That effectual methods should be taken to prevent the unnecessary importation of European commodities.

“ That all prudent and legal measures should be adopted to encourage and produce home manufactures, and to lessen the use of superfluities, particularly the following articles; viz. loaf-sugar, cordage, anchors, coaches, chaises, and carriages of all sorts; horse furniture, men's and women's hats, ready-made apparel, household furniture, gloves, shoes, foal-leather, sheathing and deck nails, gold and silver thread lace of all sorts, gold and silver buttons, wrought plate of all sorts, diamonds, stone and paste ware, snuff, mustard, clocks and watches, silver-smiths and jewellers ware, broad cloths that cost above 10s. per yard, muffs, furs, and tippets, and all sorts of millinery ware, starch, women's and children's stays, fire-engines, china ware, silk and cotton velvets, pewterers hollow ware, linseed oil, glue, lawns, cambrics, silks of all kinds for garments, malt liquors, cheese, &c. &c.

“ That divers new manufactures be immediately established in America; and, in particular, for the making of glass and paper; and that all prudent means be employed to encourage the consumption of glass and paper made in America, &c.

“ That no gloves be used at funerals but such as are manufactured in America; and that no new garments be procured on such occasions but such as shall be absolutely necessary, &c.”

The state of American affairs engaged, as it had demanded, the attention of Parliament; but the

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1767 the business which more immediately occupied the public attention, at this particular period, was that of the East India Company.

A parliamentary committee had been appointed, early in the session, to examine into the state of the Company; and it was some time after ordered, after much animated debate, that copies of the Company's charters, their treaties with, and grants from the country powers, together with their letters and correspondence to and from their servants in India, the state of their revenues in Bengal, Babar, Orixá, and other places, should all be laid before the House of Commons: also an account of all expences incurred by government on the Company's account, whether in the naval, military, or other departments. In the course of this rigorous enquiry, which was agitated with uncommon violence, an order was made for printing the East India papers; but, on a petition from the court of directors, it was agreed, that the private correspondence between the Company and its servants should not be committed to the press.

Among other important matters, which, though not formally brought into debate, were rather fully discussed, was the right of the Company to its territorial acquisition. But though this great subject was frequently taken up, the House of Commons appeared to possess no very forward inclination to determine on a question pregnant with such important consequences. The ministry, though disposed to assert the right, with a view to relieve the burthened state of the finances, and a large party of the proprietors of India stock, who were equally inclined to deny it, possessed the same opinion with respect to the prudence of a reasonable composition between government and the Company.

In the mean time, and so late in this parliamentary session as the 6th of May, a general court of the East India proprietors was held, when the Midsummer dividend was declared to be $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.; and, about the same time, a scheme of proposals for an accommodation was agreed to. These were laid before the ministry, but the members of it were at this time so divided, that they declined taking any part in the negotiation but in Parliament: a petition was therefore presented to the House of Commons by the East India Company, which contained two sets of proposals for a temporary agreement, which was to last during the period of three years.

By the first of these proposals, government was to grant the Company some advantages with respect to the inland duties on their teas, and a draw-back on the exportation of them to Ireland and the colonies; and some others respecting raw silk, calicoes, muslins, the recruiting service, and military stores. That, in return, after deducting 400,000*l.* per annum, in lieu of the Company's former commercial profits, the nett produce of all the remaining revenues and trade, after deducting all charges, were to be equally divided between government and the Company; provided that the Company's property in the new acquisitions continued for three years.

By the second proposal, the Company offered, upon the same terms, to pay the specific sum of 400,000*l.* per annum for three years, by half-yearly payments; and to indemnify the public for any loss the revenue might sustain by granting the advantages which they acquired in the tea trade, if the advanced consumption of it, taken at an average of five years, did not answer that end.

Of these, the latter proposal was accepted by the House, with this sole difference, that the agreement was limited to two, instead of three years; and a bill was accordingly passed upon these terms.

A message from the ministry had been read at the general court which declared the last increase of dividend, recommending to the Company to make no augmentation of it, till their

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1767 affairs had undergone a further consideration. This message not producing the effect designed by it, two bills were brought into the House; one for regulating the qualifications of voters in trading companies, and the other for regulating the making of dividends by the East India Company. By the last of these bills, the late act of the Company was rescinded, and they were restrained from raising their dividends above 10 per cent. till the next meeting of Parliament.

The Company petitioned against this bill; and made a proposal, if it was laid aside, that they would bind themselves from any further increase of dividend during the temporary agreement; but the petition and the proposal were equally ineffectual, and the bill was carried against a very violent, numerous, and able opposition through both houses.

It appears to us, that in a matter of such importance as this ministerial measure, we should not fulfil our duty were we to be wholly inattentive to the principles on which this bill was founded, and the leading arguments that were advanced against it.

To prevent the payment of an higher dividend than the circumstances of the Company could afford, without endangering their credit; to regulate the dividend in such a manner, as to put an end to the fluctuation of that stock, which, if allowed to proceed, might not only introduce a pernicious spirit of gaming, but would also tend to depress the other stocks; and to prevent any encroachment that might be made, by any dividend of the Company, upon the revenue of its lately acquired territory, so that the claim of the public might suffer no loss, till that affair was finally decided, were the principal grounds on which the authors and promoters of this bill rested their support of it.

The leading arguments in opposition to it were:—That by the state of the Company's affairs laid before Parliament, it was evident that they were in a condition to make a much greater increase of dividend, without affecting their credit; and that if they were allowed to be in circumstances to pay government 400,000*l.* per annum, there could be no doubt of their being well able to divide 80,000*l.* among themselves.—That the short period to which the restriction of the dividend was confined, would tend to encourage, instead of checking the infamous practices of the Alley; and that the proposal made by the Company, of submitting to a restriction of the dividend of 12½ per cent. during the temporary agreement, would have obviated all the mischiefs, and secured every good end which might be purposed, but could not be attained by the bill in question, without being liable to the objection of violence or injustice.—That if a supposition that the right to the territorial acquisitions in the East Indies was not vested in the Company, should be admitted as one of the grounds of this bill, a precedent would be established very dangerous indeed to the property of the subject; and that if a legislative interposition was permitted to controul the dividend of a trading company, to whom no blame was imputable, and who had lent their money to the public upon the express stipulation that they might exercise their discretion with regard to the dividend, provided that their undivided effects were sufficient to answer their debts, such a measure might be attended with consequences very alarming indeed to public credit.

Of two hundred and nine bills which received the royal assent in this session of Parliament, we shall make particular mention of the following, as more immediately relating to our subject.

A bill to continue, for a further limited time, the free importation of wheat, and wheat meal, from any part of Europe, and to discontinue the duties payable on the importation of barley meal and pulse.

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For discontinuing the duties on the importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and grease.

For granting an aid to his Majesty by a land-tax for the service of this year.

[The taxes with which the necessaries of life were charged, in consequence of the expences produced by the late war, bore so hard upon the laborious and manufacturing part of the nation, that it had been determined, since the conclusion of the peace, to continue the land-tax at four shillings in the pound. Indeed, from the circumstances of the times, the whole land-tax began to be considered as a part of the settled revenue, which must look to the contingencies of a future, and perhaps distant state of public prosperity, to be diminished. But the landed interest was of a different opinion, and, in opposition to the ministry, carried the resolution of reducing the land-tax to three shillings in the pound, by a considerable majority.— This, we believe, was the first instance of a minister being in the minority on a money bill since the Revolution.]

For raising 1,800,000*l.* by loans on Exchequer bills, and a lottery for the service of the present year.

For laying an additional duty on bast or chip, straw, cane, and horse-hair hats or bonnets imported.

For making the river Ure navigable, from its junction with the river Swale to the borough of Rippon, in Yorkshire.

For raising 1,500,000*l.* by annuities, &c. for the service of the present year; to be charged on the sinking fund.

For redeeming certain annuities, in respect of navy, victualling, and transport bills, and ordnance debentures.

For redeeming part of the joint stock of annuities, charged on several additional duties on wines imported, and also on cyder and perry.

For granting additional duties on certain linen cloth imported.

For allowing the free importation of rice, sago dust, and vermicelli, for a limited time from the American colonies.

For improving and extending the navigation of the river Hull, from Frodingham Beck to Driffeld, in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For making Codbeck brook navigable from the river Swale to Thirsk, in Yorkshire.

For preventing the wear of cambrics.

For extending the window act to Scotland.

For altering the duties on policies, and lessening the allowance for prompt payment of certain stamp duties.

For granting certain duties in the British American colonies.

For regulating the dividend of the East India Company.

For establishing an agreement between government and the East India Company.

For regulating the manufactures, &c. in the isle of Man.

For empowering his Majesty to permit the importation of corn duty free, for a further limited time, &c.

[The quantity of corn brought into the port of London, between the 3d of March and the 2d of July, in consequence of the different acts passed for the importation of that necessary article, amounted to 115,497 quarters.]

For taking off the duty of one shilling per pound on all black and singlo tea, and for granting a drawback on teas exported to Ireland and America.

For

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For granting certain duties on foreign linen, and a premium for the encouragement of raising of hemp.

For restraining the assembly of New York from passing any act, till they had complied with the act of Parliament for furnishing his Majesty's troops with the necessaries required by that act.

For putting the American duties into the hands of commissioners.

Two orders of his Majesty in council appeared in the London gazette of the 5th of September; by the first of which, the free importation into this kingdom of oats or oat-meal, rye or rye-meal, wheat or wheat-flour, barley or barley-meal, peas, beans, tares, malt, bread, biscuit, starch, &c. from any part of Europe, was permitted from the expiration of the time before limited, viz. the 10th of September, until twenty days after the commencement of the next session of Parliament. By the second, the prohibition of the exportation of any sort of corn, grain, meal, malt, flour, bread, &c. was extended in the same manner.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 seamen, including 4,287 marines, —	832,000	0	0
For 16,754 land-forces, including 2,461 invalids, —	593,986	15	7
For general and general staff-officers, &c. —	12,293	18	6½
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, &c. —	405,607	2	11½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishment of six regiments, of foot, &c. —	7,201	14	7
Pensions to officers widows, —	1,536	0	0
On account of reduced officers, —	135,299	8	4
Allowances to officers and privates of two troops of horse-guards, and a regiment of horse reduced, &c. —	2,103	11	8
For the full pay of certain officers reduced with the 10th company of several battalions, &c. —	5,633	3	4
To the office of ordnance for land service, —	169,600	0	2
To ditto, for services not provided for by Parliament in 1766, —	51,190	6	6
The ordinary of the navy, &c. including half-pay, &c. —	409,177	4	3
Towards building and repairs, &c. of ships, and other extra works, —	298,144	0	0
For purchasing hemp, &c. —	30,000	0	0
For discharging certain Exchequer bills, —	1,800,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his orders, in pursuance of addresses from the House of Commons, —	12,951	2	2
Extra expences of the land-forces, not provided for by Parliament, —	315,917	16	5
Out-pensioners of Chelsea hospital, —	106,083	2	6
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, —	4,866	3	5
Expences respecting ditto, not provided for by Parliament, —	691	8	0
On account of the civil establishment of Georgia, &c. —	3,986	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, &c. —	4,750	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, &c. —	4,800	0	0
General surveys in North America, —	1,601	14	0
On account of Senegambia, —	5,550	0	0
The marriage portion of the Queen of Denmark, —	40,000	0	0

Carried forward, £. 5,254,970 12 5½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	5,254,970	12	5 $\frac{5}{8}$
Towards building a passage to the House of Commons,	2,000	0	0
For maintaining, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum, to discharge certain annuities, established on account of certain navy, victualling, and transport bills, &c.	104,506	11	10
To replace to ditto the like sum, issued for paying the management of the said annuities,	1,592	1	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
To replace to ditto the like sum, issued for discharging the annuities attending such part of the joint-stock as was redeemed, &c.	8,708	17	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
To replace to ditto the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency on several rates, duties, &c.	49,660	9	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
To replace to ditto the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency of certain duties on wine, cyder, and perry, &c.	12,758	13	7
For a compensation to Dr. Peter Swinton, for the damage sustained by him at Chester during the late rebellion,	700	0	0
To enable his Majesty to redeem and pay off the remainder of the capital stock of annuities, granted in respect of certain navy, victualling, and transport bills, ordnance debentures, &c.	1,741,776	10	11
To enable his Majesty to redeem and pay off the fourth part of the capital stock of annuities established by the act of 3d George III. to be redeemed, &c.	875,000	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	300,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of 1766,	129,144	2	8
To the Foundling Hospital,	28,000	0	0
For putting forth apprentices from the said hospital,	1,500	0	0
To the African Company, on account of the establishment of Senegal and its dependencies, &c.	3,500	0	0
Towards defraying the contingent expences of the forces serving in North America,	2,000	0	0

Total of Supplies, 8,528,818, 0 1 $\frac{1}{8}$

WAYS and MEANS for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax,	700,000	0	0
The land-tax, which was this year reduced to 3s. in the pound,	1,528,568	11	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	1,500,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	469,147	14	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto,	2,010,121	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

Carried forward, £. 8,007,837 16 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	8,007,837	16	6½
By monies remaining in the Exchequer for the disposition of Parliament,	35,202	9	2
By monies granted out of certain savings, &c.	261,571	13	3¼
From monies issued for the relief of officers widows, &c.	7,844	17	9
From the produce of duties, &c. granted for protecting, securing, &c. the British colonies,	110,000	0	0
By monies remaining in the Exchequer, granted in the last session, towards the militia,	150,000	0	0
By monies agreed to be paid by his Most Christian Majesty, on account of French prisoners, &c.	181,000	0	0
Total of ways and means,	8,753,456	16	8¾
Supply granted,	8,528,818	0	1⅞
Excess of provisions,	£. 224,638	16	7⅞

✂ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1767, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land-tax, granted for the service of 1767.

Additional duties, &c. for this year:—

An additional duty of 6s. was laid upon every dozen of bast or straw, chip, cane, and horse-hair hats and bonnets, which, after the 2d of April, 1767, should be entered inward at any port in this kingdom: also an additional duty of 6s. was laid upon every pound weight avoirdupois of the materials of the aforesaid articles, entered inwards, after the above date.—These additional duties were ordered to be carried to the sinking fund, towards making good the payments made thereout of the annuities attending the sum of 1,500,000l.

An additional duty of 3d per ell was laid upon all linen cloth or sheeting, above one yard English in width, which should be imported into this kingdom, except from Holland and Flanders: and also the same per ell, upon all canvas drilling, so imported. This exception is, however, only to be understood of cloth manufactured in those countries; as all others, though imported from thence, are equally liable to the said duties.—These duties were carried to the sinking fund, for the purpose above-mentioned.

An additional duty of one halfpenny per ell was laid upon all foreign canvas, Dutch barrafs, or Hessens, imported into this kingdom.

All foreign lawns imported into this kingdom, were ordered to be rated as Silesia lawns, and pay accordingly: and, over and above the said duty, an additional one of 3d. per yard was laid upon all foreign lawns.

A sum not exceeding 15,000l. per annum, arising from the said duties, was voted to remain in the Exchequer, as a fund for the encouragement of raising and dressing hemp and flax in this kingdom, in such manner as Parliament should direct; and the remainder of the said duties was ordered to be reserved in the Exchequer, for the future disposition of Parliament.

There was granted to his Majesty, upon the postage of letters, &c. between Great Britain and the Isle of Man, for every single letter 2d. a double letter 4d. a treble letter 6d. and for every

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1767 every ounce 8d. and so in proportion for every packet of deeds, writs, and other things. And for the postage, &c. of letters and packets within the said island, such rates, in proportion to the number of miles or stages, as were established for the island, port, or conveyance of letters and packets in England.—The monies arising by these rates, were appropriated to such uses as the present rates of postage were applicable.

The properties of persons in any ship or cargo, or both, were allowed to be assured to the amount of 1000l. by a policy stamp of 5s.; and any larger sum, by a policy with two such stamps.

Grey or scrow salt, salt scale, sand scale, crustings, &c. allowed to be taken from the salt-works in England, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed, to be used as manure, upon payment of a duty of 1d per bushel only.

The duties payable upon *succus liquoritiæ*, imported into this kingdom were repealed: and, in lieu thereof, a duty of 30s. per hundred-weight, was laid upon *succus liquoritiæ* imported.—The said duty to be appropriated to such uses as the duty to be repealed was made applicable.

A subsidy of 6d. in the pound, according to the value specified in the book of rates, referred to in an act of the 12th of Charles II. laid upon the exportation from this kingdom of such rice as should have been exported duty free, by virtue of an act made in this session: and the said subsidy was reserved in the Exchequer for the disposition of Parliament.

A duty of 4s. 8d. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all crown, plate, flint, and white glass; and 1s. 2d. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, upon all green glass imported into the British colonies, &c. in America.

Such duties as should be equal to a moiety of the duties granted by two acts made in the 10th and 12th of Queen Anne, or of any subsequent act, upon paper, paste-boards, mill-boards, and scale-boards, respectively, were laid upon these articles imported into the said colonies.

A duty of 2s. per hundred-weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all red and white lead, and painters colours, imported into the said colonies.

A duty of 3d. per pound weight avoirdupois, was laid upon all tea imported into the said colonies.—The said duties were to be applied towards making a more adequate provision for the charge of administering justice, and the support of civil government, in those colonies where it should be found necessary; the residue to be paid into the Exchequer, and reserved for defraying the necessary expences of protecting the said colonies.

On the exportation of teas to Ireland, and the British dominions in America, a drawback was allowed, for a limited time, of all the duties paid thereupon: and the inland duty of 1s. per pound weight, upon all black and singlo teas consumed in Great Britain, was taken off, for a limited time; and such indemnification was agreed to be made by the East India Company to the public, in lieu of such duties, as we have before stated.

The several other resolutions were also agreed to by the House of Commons, of which the following is the substance:

Such monies as should be paid into the Exchequer between the 5th of April 1767, and the 5th of April 1768, of the produce of the duties charged by an act made in the 5th of his present Majesty, upon the importation and exportation of gum Senegal and gum Arabic, were applied towards making good the supply granted to his Majesty.

The sum of 84,604l. 3s. 3d. remaining in the Exchequer, of the two-sevenths excise, granted by an act of the 5th and 6th of William and Mary, after satisfying several incumbrances,

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1767 branches, was carried to the aggregate fund; and the said fund was made a security for the discharge of such annuities, &c. payable out of the said sum.

The act made in the 7th of George II. chap. 18. and which was continued in force, by several subsequent acts until the 29th of September, 1767, and from thence to the end of the then next session, being near expiring, was thought fit to be continued.

The allowance by an act of the 29th of George II. upon prompt payment of the stamp duties on licences for exciseable liquors, was reduced to the same rate as those of other stamp duties.

Upon the exportation, from this kingdom, of coffee and cocoa nuts, the production of the British colonies in America, a drawback was allowed of the duties payable upon the importation thereof.

Ribbands and silks, printed, stained, or painted in this kingdom, though less than half a yard in breadth, were declared to be within the meaning of certain acts of the 10th and 12th of Queen Anne, and liable to the duties therein mentioned.

The drawbacks payable on China earthen-ware exported to America, were discontinued.

Twenty other resolutions were agreed to by the House of Commons; by the first of which, all duties then payable to his Majesty, upon goods imported into, or exported from the Isle of Man, were abolished; but by the eighteen next following resolutions, a great variety of new duties upon such goods were imposed, which it would be unnecessary to particularize, except the 20th resolution, which was as follows:—

“That such bounties as may hereafter become due and payable, under the several acts which have been made for the encouragement of the British white-herring fishery, be paid by the receiver-general of the customs, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, out of any monies remaining in his hands.”

A general statement of the public debts, at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out the 5th day of January, 1767, with the annual interest, or other charges payable for the same.

	Principal debt.			Annual Interest, &c.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer, — — —	2,037,381	12	9½	153,422	4	8
East India Company, — — —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, — — —	97,479,724	12	4¼	3,261,526	14	3½
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as also on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years, to the subscribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the service of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the						
Bank of England, — — —				335,079	10	3
South Sea Company, — — —	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	1½
Total, .	130,842,415	19	1¼	4,707,223	7	4

* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on pensions, nor the sum of 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1766, and charged on the supplies of 1764.

IMPORTS

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1766, to CHRISTMAS 1767.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 55,981 8 6	£. 558,062 5 8
Canaries, — — —	6,061 19 4	38,289 4 5
Denmark and Norway, — — —	75,308 3 10	159,730 16 2
East Country, — — —	267,085 7 6	150,754 1 10
East India, — — —	1,981,173 0 1	1,272,654 13 3
Flanders, — — —	268,322 13 1	545,919 14 3
France, — — —	174,089 17 4	232,031 7 4
Germany, — — —	680,963 9 10	1,506,293 10 11
Greenland, — — —	7,900 17 9	
Holland, — — —	743,703 8 8	1,539,705 18 0
Ireland, — — —	1,103,285 6 11	1,880,486 13 9
Italy, — — —	630,447 17 6	606,506 5 1
Madeiras, — — —	6,211 0 0	34,253 5 6
Portugal, — — —	340,289 13 1	515,080 14 3
Russia, — — —	822,271 14 5	125,208 19 7
Spain, — — —	593,504 19 3	1,144,777 19 8
Streights, — — —	11,375 19 11	69,772 5 4
Sweden, — — —	175,515 7 6	44,336 16 5
Turkey, — — —	99,950 15 10	44,094 19 10
Venice, — — —	57,457 12 7	31,984 3 0
Alderney, — — —	153 13 0	1,242 13 0
Guernsey, — — —	17,898 4 9	36,968 15 6
Jersey, — — —	18,646 15 8	21,652 0 4
Anguilla, — — —	4,117 13 10	
Antigua, — — —	394,727 10 2	119,740 16 6
Barbadoes, — — —	219,682 3 9	145,083 4 4
Bermudas, — — —	1,417 12 5	12,133 9 4
Canada, — — —	42,044 12 5	194,406 3 9
Carolina, — — —	395,027 10 1	244,093 6 0
Dominica, — — —	118,978 19 3	30,863 6 6
Florida, — — —	12,681 6 8	30,963 13 11
Georgia, — — —	35,856 15 7	23,334 14 2
Granades, — — —	243,618 18 3	89,767 19 2
Hudson's Bay, — — —	9,942 10 11	4,981 18 8
Jamaica, — — —	1,243,742 13 9	467,681 4 4
Martinico, — — —	572 0 8	
Montserrat, — — —	54,960 9 9	23,071 9 3
Nevis, — — —	60,690 14 7	11,875 18 8
New England, — — —	128,207 17 4	406,081 9 2
Newfoundland, — — —	48,950 18 6	53,550 10 7
New Providence, — — —	4,487 3 0	14,986 0 3
New York, — — —	61,422 18 7	417,957 15 5
Nova Scotia, — — —	753 4 5	25,094 10 1
Pennsylvania, — — —	37,641 17 0	371,830 8 10
St. Christopher's, — — —	276,013 9 9	106,162 8 7
St. Croix, — — —	10,584 1 2	882 7 2
St. Eustatia, — — —	2,740 7 8	
St. John's Island, — — —	178 12 8	1,942 0 8
St. Lucia, — — —	629 13 9	
St. Vincent, — — —	24,282 7 1	14,822 2 0
Tortola, — — —	48,864 8 4	27,010 1 4
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	437,926 15 0	437,628 2 6
Spanish West Indies, — — —	15,611 8 3	7,995 4 5
West Indies in general, — — —		763 13 0

Totals,

12,073,956 0 11

13,844,511 1 8

Exports exceed the Imports,

1,770,555 0 9

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1767

The christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London were, this year, as follows:

Christened, males	8,211	Buried, males	11,306
———— females	7,769	———— females	11,306
	15,980		22,612

Bills of births and burials in different parts of England and Europe.

Paris,—born, 19,749; deaths, 19,875.

Amsterdam,—births, 4,908; deaths, 6999.

Copenhagen,—births, 2,957; deaths, 3,361; marriages, 909.

In the dutchy of Schleswig the births were 6,971; and the deaths 6,384.

In the dutchy of Holstein the births were 4,771; and the deaths 3,736.

Turin,—births, 2,956; deaths, 5,980.

Brunswick,—births, 1,241; deaths, 1,022.

Durham,—births, 149; deaths, 155; marriages, 65.

Whitby,—births, 298; deaths, 177; marriages, 55.

Chester,—births, 351; deaths, 367; marriages, 143.

According to a calculation made in 1760, and lately published at Stockholm, there were in the kingdom of Sweden 1,127,938 men and boys, and 1,255,175 women and girls,—in all, 2,313,123 persons.—The number of noblemen were 10,045.—The clergy, with the schools and colleges, amounted to 4,488, or, including their wives and children, 18,197; and the number of those who had a right of freedom in the cities and towns, were 162,888. It appeared, that there had been an increase of 2,773 inhabitants, since the year 1758.

1768 In the recommencement of a regular opposition to Great Britain, which had taken place during the last year, the assembly of Massachusetts openly took the lead, by sending a circular letter to every colony, inviting them all to join in a communication and harmony of sentiments, and in asserting the injustice of the British Ministry to the American colonies.

One of the most unfortunate circumstances which could attend these unhappy altercations, was the enmity which had for some time subsisted, and did then subsist, between the assembly of Massachusetts and its governor. He was a man of considerable abilities, but was regarded as a sworn champion of the royal prerogative. In consequence of this opinion, he met with obstructions in every thing he undertook; and the party violence with which he had to contend, was animated with as much inveteracy against his person, as with hatred to the measures which he thought it his duty to support. The consequences of this dissention were very injurious to the parties interested in the great questions then in agitation. To this mutual ill will of the Governor and the House of Representatives, may be imputed a great increase of that violent altercation, which now subsisted between Great Britain and America.

The new acts of the British Legislature, renewed and afforded fresh materials for the ill-humour which subsisted between this colony and Governor Bernard. Indeed all idea of moderation seems, at this time, to have been lost, in the violence with which the assembly manifested their opposition to him; and as the colonies had greatly exasperated the British Ministry by their obstinate conduct, the Governor was instructed to act with vigour and resolution.

A letter also, which he had officially received from the Earl of Shelburne, one of the Secretaries of State, containing very severe animadversions on the conduct of the Assembly, encreas-

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1768 ed the spirit of discontent to such a degree, that the Governor, finding it a vain task to soften, by any proper means, the refractory disposition of the Assembly, thought proper to adjourn it.

In the midst of these distractions in America, a new establishment was made at home, by which a Secretary of State was appointed to the sole department of the colonies. Much good was expected to result from an arrangement, which had been left as a kind of legacy to his country by the late Mr. Charles Townshend, whose death was, at this time, and with great reason, considered as a national misfortune. Lord Hillsborough was the first American Secretary, and one of the earliest acts of this new created office, was a circular letter to the governors of all the colonies, who had before received the circular letters from the Massachusetts Assembly, in order to express his Majesty's disapprobation of a measure, which was considered by the royal mind as tending to excite an open opposition to, and denial of the authority of Parliament, and to subvert the true principles of the constitution.

A letter was also written from the same Minister to Governor Barnard, with an order to make a requisition to the Assembly of Massachusetts, in his Majesty's name, to rescind the resolution which gave birth to their circular letter, and to declare their disapprobation of such a rash and hasty proceeding.

But, whatever hopes were entertained, at this period, of an approaching reconciliation, from the measures we have just related, they soon vanished in the refusal of the Assembly to rescind the resolutions of the former House, which actually confirmed them by a division of ninety-two to seventeen voices.

The other assemblies of the American continent, now followed the example of that we have just described. They treated the circular letters written to each of them by the Secretary of State, exactly in the same manner; and, in their answer to him, justified the conduct of the Assembly at Boston in a language similar to that which it had used to justify itself, nor were they backward in holding forth the same explicit condemnation of the late measures of the British government.

To prove also the decided spirit with which they acted, they renewed their former combinations against the use and importation of English goods, except such as were of the most indispensable necessity, and resolved that such agreements should remain in full force till the late acts of the British Parliament were entirely repealed.

In the month of June a great tumult also happened at Boston, in consequence of a seizure made by the Board of Customs of a sloop belonging to one of the principal merchants of that town. It appeared, that this sloop was discharged of a cargo of wine, and in part re-laden with a quantity of oil, without any great attention having been paid to the new laws or the Custom-house regulations. Immediately on the seizure, the officers made a signal to the Romney man of war, and her boats were sent manned and armed, to cut away the sloop's fastenings and convey her under the protection of that ship. In consequence of this, the populace soon assembled, and not only treated the commissioners of the customs with every personal indignity, but attacked their houses, broke their windows, and having hauled the Collector's boat ashore, burned it to ashes. The officers of the customs, alarmed for the safety of their lives, retired on board the man of war, from whence they removed to Castle William, a fortification on a small island in the harbour, where they resumed the functions of their office.

In short, the temper and conduct of the people became every day more licentious. An account from England, that the petition which the Assembly had transmitted to its agent, had not been presented, because such agent had been appointed by the Assembly without the consent

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1768 sent of the Governor, tending, in no small degree, to encrease the public discontents; and the dissolution of the General Assembly, added another combustible to the flame. Indeed, such was the growing spirit of sedition among all classes of people, that government thought it necessary to convince the colonies, that it would no longer submit to those indignities with which its authority was daily insulted. For this purpose, therefore, troops were ordered to repair to Boston in sufficient numbers to intimidate the refractory and to support the well-affected.

On receiving this intelligence, the inhabitants of Boston petitioned the Governor to call a General Assembly, which he informed them it was not in his power to do, till he had his Majesty's permission for that purpose, according to instructions he had received from England. On this refusal of the Governor, they called an Assembly, and gave it the title of a Convention.

Among other measures of this meeting, which were hostile to the power of Government, the most remarkable was a requisition to the inhabitants, to put themselves in a posture of defence against any sudden attack of an enemy. This request was founded on an apprehension, as it was then stated, of an approaching rupture with France. The intention of this measure, which was the boldest that the colonies had yet taken, was too obvious not to be generally understood; and it required no uncommon sagacity to discover the final aim of those who had fomented, with so much zeal, the distractions and discontents which now prevailed throughout the American colonies.

The first measure of the Convention was to address the Governor, disclaiming all pretence to any other power than that of advising among themselves on the alarming situation of their affairs, and to entreat him to convoke a General Assembly, as the most constitutional remedy for those evils with which the province was threatened. But the Governor remained inflexible; and he accompanied the denial of their request with the most serious admonitions to reflect on the nature, and what might be the consequence, of their conduct. The Convention, therefore, after sending a justificatory message to the Governor, which he refused to receive, appointed a committee to draw up a report of their proceedings, the motives which produced them, and a statement of their grievances; which report being approved, and ordered to be transmitted to their agent in London, to counteract the unfavourable impressions which the violence of their late proceedings might have occasioned, the meeting was dissolved.

The very day on which the convention broke up, was remarkable for the arrival of several frigates and sloops of war from Halifax, and some transports with two regiments and a detachment of artillery on board, in the harbour of Boston. Some difficulties at first took place, relative to the quartering of the troops, and objections were made to their admission into the town, as no barracks had been prepared for their reception. But this obstruction was soon removed, by fitting up certain houses which were to be reputed barracks, and the council consented to allow the barrack provisions usually furnished by the colony. General Gage arrived soon after, as did two regiments from Ireland; and the late spirit of turbulence and outrage began to give way to an appearance of moderation and tranquillity.

From the voluminous miscellany of public writings, which the colony transactions of the present year produced, we shall only select the following agreements entered into by the inhabitants of Boston and New York.

“The merchants and traders in the town of Boston, having taken into consideration the deplorable situation of the trade, and the many difficulties it at present labours under, on account of the scarcity of money, which is daily increasing for want of the other remittances to discharge

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1768 discharge our debts in Great Britain, and the large sums collected by the officers of the Customs for duties on goods imported; the heavy taxes levied to discharge the debts contracted by the Government in the late war; the embarrassments and restrictions laid on the trade by the several late acts of Parliament; together with the bad success of our cod fishery this season, and the discouraging prospect of the whale fishery, by which our principal sources of remittances are like to be greatly diminished, and we, thereby, rendered unable to pay the debts we owe the merchants in Great Britain, and to continue the importation of goods from thence.

“We, the subscribers, in order to relieve the trade, under those discouragements, to promote industry, frugality, and economy, and to discourage luxury, and every kind of extravagance, do promise and engage to and with each other as follows:

“First, That we will not send for or import from Great Britain, either upon our own account, or upon commission, this fall, any other goods than what are already ordered for the fall supply.

“Secondly, That we will not send for or import any kind of goods or merchandize from Great Britain, either on our own account, or on commissions, or any otherwise, from January 1, 1769, to January 1, 1770, except salt, coals, fish-hooks and lines, hamp and duck bar lead and shot, wool cards and wool wire.

“Thirdly, That we will not purchase of any factor or others, any kind of goods imported from Great Britain from January 1769, to January 1770.

“Fourthly, That we will not import, on our own account, or on commissions, or purchase of any who shall import from any other colony in America, from January 1769 to January 1770, any tea, glass, paper, or other goods, commonly imported from Great Britain.

“Fifthly, That we will not, from and after the first of January 1769, import into this province any tea, paper, glass, or painter's colours, until the act imposing duties on those articles shall be repealed.

“In witness whereof, &c.”—Dated August 1, 1768.

On the 15th of September following, the inhabitants of New York, incited, according to their own declaration, by the example of those of Boston, entered into a similar agreement for the non-use and non-importation of British produce and manufactures.

The affairs of the East India Company were now become an object of annual consideration, and as such, will continue to claim our particular attention.

Though the agreement which the Company had entered into with Government was to continue another year, yet as the act which restrained their dividends to ten per cent. was now expired, a bill was brought into Parliament to restrain them, in the same manner, for the ensuing year.

The Company, greatly alarmed at the apparent perseverance in a measure, which they apprehended so totally subversive of their rights, presented a strong petition against it. In this they shewed the right they possessed, by their charter, to declare their own dividends; that the regulations already established by the Legislature would be, at all times, sufficient to prevent an improvident use being made of such powers; and assured the House, that they would make no increase of their dividends, unless the situation of their affairs should afford ample conviction, that, in justice and prudence, they should be warranted in so doing.

This measure occasioned very animated debates in the House of Commons, when all the arguments of the preceding year were reiterated, and the second restraining bill carried by a great

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1768 great majority: it met, however, like the former, with a powerful opposition in the House of Peers, and a very energetic protest, signed by several Lords, was entered against it.

On July 7, a ballot ended at the India House on the following question: "That orders be sent to the Governor and Council of Bengal, for the immediate payment, out of the revenues of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, of what remains unpaid of the restitution money of Meer Jaffer, to the several persons to whom it is due, according to their claims, as admitted by the committee formerly appointed for that purpose, whether such claims are found to arise from losses in trade, of salt, beetle nut, or tobacco, or not."

The numbers for the question were 115.—Against it, 223.

The Court of Directors of the East India Company, at a meeting held on the 29th of the same month, came to the following resolution.

Resolved, "As the most effectual method to prevent the sale of the command of ships in the company's service, that from and after the 25th of March following, upon the death of a commander of any ship employed or to be employed in the company's service, or whenever there should be a vacancy of a commander, by resignation, incapacity, or otherwise, another commander shall be chosen by the Court of Directors, to supply such vacancy, out of persons who have commanded a ship in the company's service, or who have performed, at least, one voyage in the capacity of chief or second mate to the East Indies; and that such choice or appointment shall be made by ballot.

"And that, from and after the said 25th of March, no ship be tendered for the company's service, but subject to the said regulation; and that no ship shall be built in the room of any ship worn out or lost in the company's service, without the leave of the Court of Directors, &c."

A very popular bill for limiting the duration of its Parliaments, and making them elective once in eight years, passed this winter in Ireland, and received the royal assent. Before this period, the Irish Parliament was determinable only by the King's life.

On the 12th of March the Parliament of Great Britain was dissolved, and on the 10th of May the Parliament met; and, after renewing the provision bills, which was the principal object of its being assembled at this time, it was adjourned on the 21st of the same month, and afterwards prorogued.

To relieve, in some degree, the growing distresses of certain manufactures, his Majesty was pleased to order, that the court mournings should not, for the future, continue longer than one half of the time which had been usually observed. This order was issued officially from the Lord Chamberlain's office, and was dated the 12th of January in this year. This act of considerate goodness in his Majesty, was followed by an address from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and a great number of considerable manufacturers and traders of the cities of London and Westminster; the wardens, assistants, &c. of the art and mystery of weaving, also presented their particular and most grateful acknowledgments to the Throne, on an occasion in which they were so deeply interested.

The quantity of rice imported from Charlestown, from November 1, 1767, to September 23, in the present year, was 111,203 barrels.

The connection which subsists between commerce and the fine arts, calls upon us to notice the establishment of a royal academy for the encouragement of the latter. Towards the close of this year, his Majesty, ever ready to encourage useful improvements, and always intent upon promoting every branch of polite knowledge, was graciously pleased to institute, in the

metropolis

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1768 metropolis of his kingdom, a Royal Academy of Arts, to be under his own immediate patronage, and the direction of forty artists of the first rank in their several professions.

The following treaty was concluded in this year, between the French King and the republic of Genoa, for the cession of the island of Corsica.

“ I. The republic of Genoa cedes the kingdom of Corsica, together with its fortresses, to France, the latter paying in money for the artillery and warlike stores, according to a valuation which shall be made of them.

“ II. The sovereignty of that island shall always remain vested in the republic.

“ III. Every person shall be preserved in his effects, on proving the right he has to them.

“ IV. The Corsicans shall be deemed subjects of France so long as the latter continues in possession of that isle.

“ V. France shall be obliged to maintain there sixteen battalions.

“ VI. France shall guarantee the Genoese commerce against the Corsican or Barbary cruisers.

“ VII. In case the republic should be desirous of resuming again the possession of that kingdom, it shall repay to France all the charges that crown shall have been at by that time; for which purpose an exact account shall be kept of all that the latter shall have advanced, and likewise of the revenues it shall have collected.

“ VIII. The King shall bestow in property on the republic, the sovereignty of the isle of Capreae.”

This treaty contains besides three secret articles.

The French King also published a declaration, dated August 8, 1788, to his people of Corsica, (for so he might literally stile them,) in which he promises to insure them all the advantages of the French government.

It might have been apprehended, that this treaty would be considered as an infraction of that of Aix-la-Chapelle, by which it had been provided, that no change should be made in the state of Italy. Nevertheless, it was permitted to take place without any interruption from the powers apparently interested in it.

The House of Austria was, perhaps, too much engaged in the disturbances of Poland and the war then breaking out between Turkey and Russia, to attend to this event; and the King of Sardinia did not actively interfere, because he could not obtain that support which would have alone put him in a capacity to have done it with effect. While, at this moment, the councils of Great Britain were so occupied with domestic broils and internal distractions, that this stride of Gallic power was submitted to with acquiescence rather than opposition.

The island of Corsica was of very little consequence while it was possessed by the republic of Genoa; and if it had, by its struggles, acquired independence, it could have been no object of jealousy or danger to any other power: but as an acquisition to France, though it does not appear to have then answered any political purpose to that crown, it was considered by the politicians of the day, as pregnant with much future inconvenience to the different European powers, who were concerned in the commerce of the Mediterranean sea.

In the course of this year, 4,173 ships were cleared from the port of Newcastle, being 453 more than in the preceding one, of which 3,718 were coastways, and 445 to foreign places.

The Dutch sent out this year on the whale fishery, 124 ships.

The number of vessels which entered the Texel, were 1,602.

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The number of vessels which arrived at Koningsberg, in Prussia, during the same period, were 763.

Ditto at Dantzick, 1,190.

The following bills, among many others, received the royal assent during the course of this year.

To continue and amend an act for allowing the free importation of salted beef, pork, bacon and butter, from Ireland, for a limited time; and for allowing the free importation of the same articles from the British dominions in America.

For further regulating the proceedings of the East India Company with respect to making dividends.

For more effectually supplying the town of Hallifax with water, &c.

For making, &c. a navigable cut or canal from Birmingham to Bilston, and for making collateral cuts and waggon ways from several coal mines; and for continuing the said canal to Autherly, there to communicate with the canal now making between the rivers Trent and Severn.

To amend an act for the better regulating journeyman taylors within the bills of mortality.

To continue several acts for better encouraging the whale fishery.

For the more easy and effectual recovery of the penalties and forfeitures inflicted by acts relating to the trade and revenue of the British colonies in America.

For making a navigable canal from the river Forth, at or near the mouth of the river Carron, in the county of Stirling, to the river Clyde, to a place called Dalmair Burnfoot, in the county of Dunbarton, and a collateral cut to Glasgow.

To permit the exportation of certain quantities of malt, now lying in his Majesty's warehouses.

For further continuing the laws then in force, relating to the exportation and importation of corn, for a limited time, &c.

For allowing a further time for the free importation of rice from North America.

For the more effectually preventing the clandestine importation of foreign spirits, and for explaining an act which relates to penalties inflicted upon persons selling ale, beer, or other exciseable liquors by retail, without licence, &c.

For repairing, improving, and preserving the harbour and quay of Wells in Norfolk.

£. s. d.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1768.

For 16,000 seamen, including 4,287 marines,	—	832,000	0	7
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	—	416,403	0	11
For 17,253 land forces, including 2,460 invalids, &c.	—	606,221	12	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
For maintaining his Majesty's forces and garrisons in the Plantations, Africa, Gibraltar, &c.	—	396,590	4	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments of six regiments of foot, &c.	—	7,226	17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
General and staff officers in Great Britain,	—	12,237	7	3
For the full pay of certain reduced officers, &c.	—	5,227	14	0

Carried over, 2,275,906 17 5 $\frac{1}{4}$

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		£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,	2,275,906	17	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
For the office of ordnance for the land service,	—	159,328	11	6
For services of the office of ordnance for land service, not provided for by Parliament,	— — — —	68,944	12	11
To enable his Majesty to pay off one third part of the capital stock of annuities at four per cent. established by an act of the third of his Majesty, &c.	— — —	875,000	0	0
Towards building and repairs of ships, &c.	—	277,954	0	0
To the trustees of the British Museum,	— —	2,000	0	0
To the pensions of officers widows, &c.	— —	1,536	0	0
On account of reduced officers and marines,	—	132,431	0	0
For allowances to several officers, &c. of the two reduced troops of horse guards, &c.	— — — —	1,715	13	0
For out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital,	— —	108,949	17	9
For extraordinaries of the army, not provided for by Parliament,	—	199,988	4	2
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	—	3,895	1	11
Ditto of Georgia,	— — — —	3,986	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	— — — —	4,750	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	— — — —	4,400	0	0
On account of surveys in North America,	— —	2,036	14	0
On account of the civil establishment of Senegambia,	—	5,550	0	0
For discharging certain Exchequer bills,	— —	1,800,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum issued thereout to make good certain deficiencies, &c.	— — —	59,322	16	10
To replace to ditto for ditto,	— — —	53,480	17	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
To the committee of the African Company, to be employed in maintaining forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	—	13,000	0	0
For the Foundling Hospital, &c.	— —	29,000	0	0
To ditto for apprenticing children, &c.	— —	2,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	—	10,500	0	0
For deficiencies of grants for the service of 1767,	—	392,484	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, established by an act of the third of George III. in respect of certain navy, victualling and transport bills, and debentures, &c.	—	88,435	19	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
To replace to ditto the like sum issued thereout, for a certain payment of annuities established by an act of the third of George III. for granting additional duties on cyder and perry, &c.	— —	8,750	0	0
To redeem and pay off the remaining parts of the said capital stock of annuities,	— — — —	1,750,000	0	0
	Total,	8,335,746	11	2 $\frac{7}{8}$

					£.	s.	d.
The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.							
The malt tax,	—	—	—	—	700,000	0	0
The land ditto,	—	—	—	—	1,528,568	11	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
By certain annuities,	—	—	—	—	1,300,000	0	0
By a lottery,	—	—	—	—	600,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	—	—	—	—	1,800,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	—	—	—	—	2,250,000	0	0
By certain surplusses,	—	—	—	—	70,000	0	0
By agreement with the East India Company,	—	—	—	—	400,000	0	0
From certain excesses and balances,	—	—	—	—	106,358	17	8
Total of ways and means provided, &c.					8,754,927	9	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto of supplies granted, &c.					8,335,746	11	2 $\frac{7}{8}$
Excess of provisions,					419,180	18	4 $\frac{7}{8}$

✂ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia in England for one year, beginning March 25, 1768, was voted to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land tax, granted for the service of the year 1768.

A general statement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out January 5, 1768, with the annual interest, &c.

	Principal Debt.			Annual Interest, &c.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer,	—	—	—	2,036,681	12	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
East India Company,	—	—	—	153,338	4	8
Bank of England,	—	—	—	4,200,000	0	0
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—	—	—	—	127,687	10	0
Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as also on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the subscribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the service of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England,	—	—	—	3,202,031	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Sea Company,	—	—	—	333,433	2	9
	—	—	—	829,507	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total,	—	—	—	129,724,936	8	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
	—	—	—	4,645,997	7	5

* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on pensions, nor the 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1767, charged on the supplies in 1768.

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1768 The following additional duties and resolutions were agreed to, in this year, by the House of Commons.

February 23.—Grew or crow salt, salt scale, sand scale, crustings, or other foul salt, was allowed to be taken from the salt works in England, Wales, or Berwick upon Tweed, to be sold as manure, upon payment of a duty of 4d. per bushel only.

All policies, by which the property of one person, or of a particular number of persons in one general partnership, or of one body politic or corporate, in any ship, or cargo, or both, should be assured to the amount of more than 1000*l.* was voted to be stamped with two five shilling stamps.

So much of an act, made in the thirty-third year of George III. entitled, “An Act for encouraging the Exportation of Rum and Spirits, of the Growth, Produce, and Manufacture of the British Sugar Plantations from this Kingdom, and of British Spirits made from Melasses,” as directs that the rum, or spirits, of the growth, produce, and manufactures of the British sugar plantations in America, which should be entitled to the allowance of the duty of custom, and freed from the duty of excise, on exportation thereof, should be proof spirits, was repealed: and upon the exportation of such rum, or spirits, there was an allowance or drawback, of all the duties of customs payable upon the importation thereof; and such rum, or spirits, were freed and discharged from all duties of excise, though the same should not be proof spirits.

A general account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 15, 1767, to December 13, 1768.

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,321	Males,	12,134
Females,	7,721	Females,	11,505
Total,	16,042	Total,	23,639

Bills of births, burials, &c. in different parts of Great Britain and Europe, for the year 1768.

Paris,—born, 17,578; deaths, 20,808; foundlings received, 6,025.

Amsterdam,—born, 4,741; deaths, 9,656.

Turin,—born, 2,962; deaths, 3,167.

Koningsberg,—births, 2,152; deaths, 1,763.

Dantzic,—births, 1,913; deaths, 2,188.

Manchester and Salford,—births, 960; deaths, 867; marriages, 399.

Darlington,—births, 135; deaths, 194; marriages, 34.

City and suburbs of York,—births, 410; deaths, 505; marriages, 179.

Norwich,—births, 1,049; deaths, 1,136.

Newcastle and Gateshead,—births, 741; deaths, 773.

Sunderland,—births, 249; deaths, 403; marriages, 91.

Whitby,—births, 226; deaths, 203; marriages, 51.

Chester,—births, 380; deaths, 422; marriages, 135.

Liverpool,—births, 1,057; deaths, 1,073; marriages, 483.

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1768

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1767, to CHRISTMAS 1768.

Countries.	Imports.			Exports.		
Africa,	—	—	£. 67,249 1 4	£. 612,392 9 8		
Canaries,	—	—	4,785 5 5	39,840 19 5		
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	79,043 15 5	178,041 7 10		
East Country,	—	—	318,840 13 4	124,121 5 3		
East India,	—	—	1,507,963 0 2	1,156,082 16 8		
Flanders,	—	—	118,595 16 5	608,258 9 1		
France,	—	—	133,100 7 3	271,828 15 7		
Germany,	—	—	689,562 17 9	1,499,732 0 4		
Greenland,	—	—	12,483 15 6	63 12 0		
Holland,	—	—	455,814 4 9	1,744,974 5 8		
Ireland,	—	—	1,226,094 0 3	2,248,315 6 5		
Italy,	—	—	673,915 11 5	781,350 11 11		
Madeiras	—	—	3,864 16 8	25,588 6 3		
Portugal,	—	—	391,502 3 8	711,908 4 4		
Russia,	—	—	934,817 13 6	126,569 14 4		
Spain,	—	—	472,045 2 6	1,076,005 7 10		
Streights,	—	—	12,212 18 6	91,005 18 2		
Sweden,	—	—	204,278 17 2	56,352 19 7		
Turkey,	—	—	103,679 19 4	109,194 7 8		
Venice,	—	—	78,209 6 4	41,294 17 8		
Alderney,	—	—	134 15 0	662 8 6		
Guernsey,	—	—	21,850 3 4	29,031 7 6		
Jersey,	—	—	14,302 9 8	17,762 5 9		
Anguilla,	—	—	6,607 12 1			
Antigua,	—	—	330,013 9 4	132,139 9 6		
Barbadoes,	—	—	281,461 3 8	191,601 17 7		
Bermudas,	—	—	829 8 0	10,526 9 11		
Canada,	—	—	37,162 6 4	110,598 12 5		
Carolina,	—	—	508,108 6 10	289,868 12 3		
Dominica,	—	—	203,828 14 8	18,411 3 1		
Florida,	—	—	14,078 6 3	32,572 0 7		
Georgia,	—	—	42,402 13 10	56,562 13 5		
Granades,	—	—	376,940 12 2	120,419 18 2		
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	8,008 7 6	5,500 13 9		
Jamaica,	—	—	1,215,628 19 9	473,146 13 3		
Montserrat,	—	—	69,563 11 3	25,572 5 10		
Nevis,	—	—	71,144 17 10	15,874 0 3		
New England,	—	—	148,375 3 6	419,797 9 4		
Newfoundland,	—	—	48,357 0 6	46,761 2 1		
New Providence,	—	—	2,523 6 4	6,752 13 9		
New York,	—	—	87,115 5 10	482,930 14 4		
Nova Scotia,	—	—	1,247 2 6	19,571 12 10		
Pennsylvania,	—	—	59,406 8 5	432,107 17 4		
St. Christopher's,	—	—	301,328 15 6	143,739 0 7		
St. Croix,	—	—	12,383 19 4	6,387 4 4		
St. Lucia,	—	—	891 3 0			
St. Thomas,	—	—	19 5 0			
St. Vincent,	—	—	35,762 6 8	24,553 13 4		
Tobago,	—	—		485 0 2		
Tortola,	—	—	50,443 19 10	17,746 0 9		
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—	406,048 13 11	475,954 6 2		
Spanish West Indies,	—	—	34,633 8 1	4,694 18 0		
West Indies in general,	—	—		3,328 15 8		
Totals,			11,878,661 2 7	15,117,982 16 1		
Exports exceed the Imports,			3,239,321 13 6			

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1769

The critical state of our American colonies, had been mentioned in a very particular manner from the Throne at the opening of this session of Parliament, in the preceding month of November; and, on this account, as well as the great importance of the subject, it was, of course, considered as the principal object of parliamentary attention. Indeed, the public looked with much solicitude to the operations of this session; when it was hoped, that an effectual remedy would be found for the growing discontents on the other side of the Atlantic ocean. The heavy censures passed in his Majesty's speech on the conduct of one of the American colonies, could not but increase the general expectation on the issue of a business in which the whole British empire was so deeply interested: they were also the previous tokens of the new system which appeared to have been formed, at this time, in regard to America, and the determination which the British government had made to change the lenity and forbearance hitherto exercised, into severity and compulsion.

A committee of the whole House of Commons had been formed early in the session, for the purpose of an enquiry into American affairs, and many and long debates took place on the interesting subjects which naturally arose in the course of such an important investigation. At length, however, an address was presented to the King by both Houses, wherein they passed the severest censures on the conduct of the Assembly of Massachusetts, and declared its resolutions, which tended to call in question the authority of the supreme legislature to make laws to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever, to be illegal, unconstitutional, and derogatory from the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain. The circular letter also, which that assembly had written to the other colonies, inviting them to join in a common petition against those claims, was condemned as illegal, unconstitutional, and unwarrantable in a people who acknowledged themselves subject to the crown of Great Britain. It was no less reprobated as injurious to the British nation, and evidently calculated to spread discontent and create factions hostile to the parent state, and directly subversive of its sovereignty over the colonies.

The town of Boston, in particular, was represented, by this address, as the seat of lawless tumult, in which no respect was paid to the civil government, and where the officers of his Majesty's revenues were not only obstructed in the execution of their duty, but had been in manifest danger of losing their lives on attempting to execute it. It was therefore urged, that the executive power ought to interpose, in order to effect that by force, which lenity had not, hitherto, been able to produce.

In short, after condemning, in the most unreserved manner, the whole conduct of the people of Boston, the address expressed a most hearty concurrence in the measures that had been taken to reduce that town and province to the obedience due to Great Britain. It promised a firm support of all the measures necessary for that end, and concluded by advising, that an exemplary punishment should be inflicted on the authors of the late disorders. For this purpose it was requested, that George Barnard might be directed to transmit the fullest information he could obtain, of all treasons or misprision of treason committed within his government, since December 30, 1767, &c. that his Majesty might issue a special commission for enquiring into and determining upon the guilt of the offenders within this realm, according to a statute of Henry VIII. in case his Majesty, on the Governor's report, should see sufficient ground for such proceeding.

This conduct of administration was violently and ably opposed: but whether the Americans were right or wrong, was no longer a question. An idea was now adopted, that the dignity of the state must, at all hazards, be supported. This was indeed an argument of no small weight;

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1769 weight; but the occasion on which a nation's honour is to be asserted demanded an equal share of consideration. However, the Ministry of that period, were of opinion that the circumstances of the moment justified the measures they had adopted, and intended to pursue, to sustain the honour of government, and that they should prove themselves enemies to the national character, if they did not insist on a direct and explicit acknowledgment of the sovereignty of Great Britain from the American colonies.

As the agreement which the East India Company had entered into with Government, as well as the act for restraining their dividends were now near expiring, the company thought it a proper time, before another restraining bill was brought in, to make proposals to the Ministry, for the basis of a new agreement; to obtain, if possible, more equitable conditions, and to settle their affairs upon a more permanent foundation. A long negotiation, therefore, was entered into upon this subject, and many proposals made and refused.

The great point which the company had in view, was to obtain some return or compensation for the great sum of money which they annually paid to government. For this purpose, among several other proposals, a prolongation of their charter for five years was required, and considered as a moderate equivalent; it was, however, absolutely refused.

The obtaining money from the company, was now become a part of the system of government; and was considered almost as a part of the current service. The interference in their affairs, by restricting their dividends, demonstrated to that body, that they were in the hands of a power which they were unable to resist. They could not indeed but perceive, that it was too late to make conditions, and that even a small relaxation of the restrictive power, was rather considered as a favour than acknowledged as a compensation.

In these circumstances, after a long train of negotiation, and the holding of several general courts upon the subject, an agreement was at length concluded, and a bill was accordingly brought in to confirm it, and passed into a law.

By this agreement, the company continue to pay to the public for five years to come, the annual sum of 400,000*l*. They are at liberty to increase their dividend in that time to 12½ per cent. the increase not to exceed one per cent. in any one year. If the company from any cause are, during that time, under a necessity of reducing their dividends, an equal sum shall be deducted from the annual payment made to government; but if their dividend should be reduced to six per cent. then the payment to the public is to be discontinued. The company are bound to export during this term, British goods equal in value, upon an average, with those exported annually for the last five years: and if any surplus of the company's cash shall remain in England, after payment of certain specified debts, it is to be lent to the public at two per cent.

Such were the terms of this agreement, and such the opulence of a company of merchants, as, besides the immense sums they paid to government in duties, to be in a capacity to afford a yearly douceur to the public, which would be no inconsiderable revenue to a sovereign Prince.

At this period, the French East India Company presents a very different commercial picture. This trading society, which had long made a very capital figure in the commercial world, and seemed, within a very few years, to have been on the point of obtaining a monopoly of trade and power in the East, now sunk into a ruined and bankrupt state. The King immediately suspended their exclusive privileges, and laid the trade to the East open to all his subjects;

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1769 consigning, at the same time, the affairs of the company, to the care of the ministry to adjust and settle. But the various schemes which were then formed for the restoration of the old company, and the establishment of a new one, were accompanied with such insurmountable difficulties, as to prove wholly ineffectual. Nor was the laying open of the trade attended with the success that was expected; the merchants being very slow in engaging in it, though the King, by way of encouragement, lent them some of his own ships to convey their commodities to the East. The garrison and civil establishments were, however, supported in their existing form by the crown.

French commerce was also, at this time, greatly distressed by a continued course of bankruptcies, for very large sums, throughout the kingdom: one of these failures, at Marseilles, was for the amazing sum of 20,000,000 of livres. The desperate manœuvre of the French minister, which, at one stroke, reduced the interest of the public funds to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. without allowing an alternative of withdrawing their money to the public creditors, and at the same time taking away the survivorship in the tontines, struck at the root of all national faith, and was attended with very fatal consequences to the private, as well as public credit of the nation.

July 12.—The following question was determined by ballot at the East India House, by 279 votes against 259—"That this court do agree with the court of directors, that it is necessary, at this time, to send out a commission with extraordinary powers, to regulate their affairs in India."

The circumstances of the East India Company at this period, required some decisive regulations relative to the oriental administration of their affairs; which might, among other good consequences, remove the dissatisfaction which had prevailed throughout the nation with respect to the management of them.

The consequences of the late war in the Carnatic were not confined to the East Indies: the alarm was caught at home, where the distance of the object, and the uncertain knowledge of the danger, having room to operate upon the imagination, multiplied, as is usual in such cases, the fears of the people concerned in so great a degree, that India stock fell above 60 per cent. in a few days. It was in vain that the directors produced their dispatches from India, and shewed that the Company had never been in a more flourishing state: the contrary opinion was so prevalent, that time alone could correct the consequences of it.

It was at this time that the directors thought it necessary to take some effectual measures to check the abuses and mismanagements which had so much disgraced the Company's government in India, and which had been so pernicious to its interests both there and at home.—For this important purpose, it was thought necessary that three gentlemen of character, as well as of great ability and experience in the Company's affairs in that part of the world, should be invested with extraordinary powers, and sent thither under the character of supervisors, with full authority to examine into and rectify the concerns of every department, and a full power of controul over all their other servants in India. This resolution of the directors was confirmed, as we have just related, by a vote of the general court of proprietors; and, after some delays, occasioned by the interference of government, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Serafton, and Colonel Ford, all of whom had before served with reputation, the two first in a civil, and the latter in a military capacity, in that part of the world, were accordingly appointed to this service.

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According to the account of a French writer on the subject of the Guinea trade, the following number of negro slaves were this year bartered for on the coast of Africa, from Cape Blanco to Rio Congo, by the different European nations.

Great Britain,	—	53,100
British America,	—	6,300
France,	—	23,520
Holland,	—	11,300
Portugal,	—	17,00
Denmark,	—	1,200

In all, 97,120 Bought by barter for European and Indian manufactures, chiefly at about 15l. each.

Total amount of British ships and seamen employed in the trade between Great Britain and her colonies on the continent of America, in this year.

Colonies.		Ships.	Seamen.
Hudson's Bay,	— —	4	130
Labrador, (American vessels)	120		
Newfoundland, (2,000 boats)	— —	380	20,560
Canada,	— — —	34	408
Nova Scotia,	— —	6	72
New England,	— —	46	552
Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire,		3	36
New York,	— — —	30	330
Pennsylvania,	— —	35	390
Virginia and Maryland,	— —	330	3,960
North Carolina,	— —	34	408
South Carolina,	— —	140	1,680
Georgia,	— — —	24	240
St. Augustine,	— —	2	24
Penfacola,	— — —	10	120
Total ships,		1,078	28,910
			Total seamen.

The number of ships which passed the Sound this year, is as follows:—

From Bremen,	99	From Lubeck,	49
— Courland,	10	— Prussia,	296
— Denmark,	1,032	— Russia,	35
— Dantzick,	262	— Rostock,	62
— England,	1,842	— Sweden,	1,149
— France,	13	— Spain,	3
— Holland,	2,508		
— Hamburg,	20	Total,	7,380

The

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The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent this year:—

A bill to continue and amend an act for the free importation of Irish salted provisions for a further limited time, and also from the American colonies.

For carrying into execution proposals made by the East India Company for the payment of 400,000*l.* annually to the public, for a limited time.

For making perpetual an act of the 1st of George III. to continue the duties for the encouragement of the coinage of money.

For allowing liberty to carry rice from South Carolina and Georgia to other parts of America.

For making a navigable cut or canal from Oxford to Coventry.

For further encouraging the growth of silk in America.

For the better securing the duties of customs.

For permitting the free importation of raw hides from Ireland and America.

For discontinuing upon the exportation of iron imported in foreign ships, the drawbacks of such parts of the duties payable thereon, as exceed the duties payable upon iron imported in British ships, &c.

For improving the navigation of the Clyde.

For permitting from Jersey and Guernsey the exportation of goods to Newfoundland.

For the preservation of harbour moorings, and punishing persons stealing his Majesty's naval stores.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 16,000 seamen, including marines, &c.	832,000	0	0
For 17,142 land-forces, &c.	602,673	15	7
For maintaining garrisons in the plantations, Gibraltar, &c. &c.	397,835	18	7½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments of five regiments and four companies of foot, &c.	4,661	12	7
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	12,203	11	6½
For defraying the charge of full pay, &c. to certain reduced officers, &c.	4,763	5	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	410,255	8	1
Towards building and repairing ships, &c. &c.	282,413	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service,	177,947	18	0
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1768,	43,812	19	0
For widows pensions, &c.	1,480	0	0
For reduced officers, &c.	127,020	0	0
For allowances to certain reduced officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	1,331	0	0
Towards the charge of Chelsea out-pensioners,	107,394	15	10
Towards the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	4,375	17	11
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, &c.	4,750	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, &c.	4,800	0	0
On account of surveys in America,	1,785	4	0
Towards the civil establishment of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0

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Carried forward,

£. 3,030,140 6 1½

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	Brought over,	£. 3,030,140	6	1 $\frac{5}{8}$
For discharging certain Exchequer bills, &c.	—	1,800,000	0	0
To Charles Dingley of London, merchant, as a reward for his having erected and brought to perfection, for the benefit of the public, a wind saw-mill at Limehouse, for the purpose of manufacturing timber into wainscot and deals; and as a recompence for the loss he sustained in the wilful destruction of the said wind saw-mill, by a number of riotous and disorderly persons,	— — — —	2,000	0	0
To discharge the arrears of the civil list,	— —	513,511	0	0
Towards erecting a magazine for gunpowder in Portsmouth harbour,	— —	4,000	0	0
Towards the extraordinaries of the land-forces, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	— — — —	238,557	2	2
For replacing to the sinking fund the like sum issued thereout,	— —	47,531	18	6
For ditto,	— — — —	18,930	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
To the Foundling Hospital,	— — — —	19,957	10	0
To ditto, to apprentice certain children,	— —	5,600	0	0
To repay the governors of the said hospital the like sum advanced by them,	— —	3,231	16	0
To make good the like sum, issued by his Majesty orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	— —	16,500	0	0
Towards an additional building, &c. to the House of Commons,	— —	3,000	0	0
Towards discharging the debts of the navy,	— —	400,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of grants for the service of 1768,	— —	186,043	1	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
For repairing and maintaining forts, &c. on the coast of Africa,	— —	2,000	0	0
To pay the prizes in the present lottery, &c.	— —	600,000	0	0
To the Levant Company, to assist it in carrying on its trade,	— —	5,000	0	0
Towards making a new road to Holyhead at the foot of Penmaen Mawr,	— —	2,000	0	0
To Frederick Lafontaine, &c. to encourage the making of saltpetre,	— —	2,000	0	0

Total of Supplies, 6,900,002 17 10 $\frac{1}{8}$

WAYS and MEANS for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax,	700,000	0	0
The land-tax,	1,528,568	11	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,800,000	0	0
The East India Company,	400,000	0	0
Lottery,	780,000	0	0
Out of certain savings, &c.	30,000	0	0
Certain surplusses,	135,177	15	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
From the sinking fund,	1,664,822	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Out of certain unapplied monies, &c.	109,864	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Out of certain monies in the Exchequer, for the disposal of Parliament,	59,879	8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total of ways and means, 7,208,312 19 9 $\frac{3}{4}$

Supply granted, 6,900,002 17 10 $\frac{1}{8}$

Excess of provisions, £. 308,310 1 11 $\frac{5}{8}$

The

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1769 The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia for this year, from March 25, 1769, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land-tax granted for the service of the year 1769.

Additional duties, regulation of duties, and bounties in this year.

March 14.—The duties of excise, payable upon seal skins, tanned, tawed, or dressed, within this kingdom, were taken off; and in lieu thereof, a duty of excise of $1\frac{1}{2}$ was laid upon every pound weight avoirdupois of such skins: the said duty was applied to the same uses as those taken off had been appropriated.

April 11.—Such of the monies as should be paid into the receipt of the Exchequer, after April 4, 1769, and before April 5, 1770, of the produce of the duties charged by an act of the fifth of his present Majesty, upon the importation and exportation of gum Senega and gum Arabic, were ordered to be applied towards making good the supply granted to his Majesty.

April 12.—Such part of the duties which had been, or should be, paid upon iron imported into foreign-built ships, navigated by foreigners, as exceeds the duties payable upon iron imported in British-built ships, navigated by British subjects, were voted not to be drawn back upon re-exportation.

The drawback formerly payable upon the exportation of foreign rough hemp, and which was discontinued by an act of the sixth of his present Majesty, was restored, upon condition that the pre-emption thereof be offered to the commissioners of the navy. The act of the fourth of his present Majesty, for granting a liberty to carry rice from the provinces of South Carolina and Georgia, directly to any part of America to the southward of the said provinces; and also a clause in an act of the fifth of his said Majesty, for more effectually securing and encouraging the trade of his Majesty's American dominions; for repealing the inland duty on coffee, and granting an inland duty on all coffee imported, except of the growth of the British dominions in America; for altering the bounties and drawbacks upon sugars exported; for repealing part of an act of the twenty-third of his late Majesty, whereby bar iron made in the said dominions, was prohibited to be exported from Great Britain, or carried coastwise; and for regulating the fees of the officers of the customs in the said dominions, which gives liberty to export rice from North Carolina, in the same manner as are enacted by the act of the fourth of his present Majesty, with respect to South Carolina and Georgia, being near expiring, were thought fit to be continued.

April 15.—The act of the first of his present Majesty, to continue the duties for the encouragement of coinage of money, was made perpetual.

April 17.—The annual sum of 1,500*l.* granted to his Majesty for the principal secretaries of state, to be distributed among the clerks, in compensation for the advantages which they enjoyed from their sending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of postage, before the commencement of the act of the fourth of his present Majesty, for preventing frauds and abuses in sending and receiving letters and packets free from the duty of postage, was made payable out of the revenues from the post-office.

April 18.—As the further encouragement of the growth and culture of raw silk, in his Majesty's dominions in America, would be of great advantage to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain, a bounty was granted in the manner following, viz. during the first seven years, the sum of 25*l.* for every 100*l.* value of such raw silk; during the next seven years, the sum of 20*l.* for every 100*l.* and during the last seven years, the sum of 15*l.* for every 100*l.* which was ordered to be paid out of his Majesty's customs.

IMPORTS

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1769

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1768, to CHRISTMAS 1769.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — — —	£. 58,955 12 6	£. 605,180 5 11
Canaries, — — — —	6,612 5 11	36,036 6 3
Denmark and Norway, — — — —	82,469 8 4	169,155 6 2
East Country, — — — —	159,481 13 9	74,422 3 2
East India, — — — —	1,863,233 14 10	1,205,388 18 4
Flanders, — — — —	103,276 18 3	623,579 2 10
France, — — — —	91,245 6 11	113,310 9 11
Germany, — — — —	619,181 11 9	1,338,866 9 8
Greenland, — — — —	21,353 0 5	72 0 0
Holland, — — — —	323,720 14 5	1,658,551 13 1
Ireland, — — — —	1,265,107 12 8	1,964,742 1 9
Italy, — — — —	930,045 19 0	746,220 6 2
Madeiras, — — — —	4,935 9 7	27,459 2 3
Portugal, — — — —	369,120 9 1	545,367 2 2
Russia, — — — —	1,038,614 15 10	158,777 11 5
Spain, — — — —	577,816 6 4	830,893 19 6
Streights, — — — —	7,775 5 7	142,237 15 4
Sweden, — — — —	182,896 8 3	57,211 14 8
Turkey, — — — —	144,419 17 3	90,880 12 6
Venice, — — — —	60,376 5 8	74,371 8 8
Alderney, — — — —	112 1 0	814 18 7
Guernsey, — — — —	17,9 2 12	37,508 14 10
Jersey, — — — —	14,703 7 3	27,471 6 5
Anguilla, — — — —	3,747 17 3	
Antigua, — — — —	232,680 8 6	151,642 2 9
Barbadoes, — — — —	254,092 15 6	165,050 10 9
Bermudas, — — — —	1,744 19 3	12,621 8 9
Canada, — — — —	43,434 2 3	174,435 5 7
Carolina, — — — —	387,114 12 1	306,600 5 6
Dominica, — — — —	158,543 2 4	31,863 10 1
Florida, — — — —	1,744 12 2	29,509 4 10
Georgia, — — — —	82,270 2 3	58,340 19 4
Grenades, — — — —	307,562 15 1	113,054 6 8
Hudson's Bay, — — — —	7,087 5 7	4,655 13 4
Jamaica, — — — —	1,266,630 9 4	570,468 10 11
Montserrat, — — — —	77,653 16 0	23,110 1 9
Nevis, — — — —	40,379 4 6	10,428 9 5
New England, — — — —	129,353 3 8	207,993 14 3
Newfoundland, — — — —	50,835 3 3	64,080 5 4
New Providence, — — — —	4,435 15 11	6,682 18 8
New York, — — — —	73,466 3 9	74,918 7 10
Nova Scotia, — — — —	2,270 3 7	19,271 0 2
Pennsylvania, — — — —	26,111 11 4	199,909 17 11
St. Croix, — — — —	18,220 1 3	2,809 4 10
St. Kitts, — — — —	224,096 9 9	115,609 10 4
St. Vincent, — — — —	70,772 9 3	33,720 16 10
Tobago, — — — —		6,119 0 0
Tortola, — — — —	54,560 1 5	27,106 12 10
Virginia and Maryland, — — — —	361,892 12 0	488,362 15 1
Spanish West Indies — — — —	81,494 2 6	11,352 3 7
Totals,	11,908,560 16 5	13,438,236 6 11
Exports exceed the Imports,	1,529,675 10 6	

The

A. D.

1769 The christenings and burials within the bills of mortality of London and Westminster for this year, are as follows :

Christened, Males,	8,569	Buried, Males,	11,033
Females,	8,145	Females,	10,814
16,714		21,847	

At Paris,—the births amounted to 19,445; deaths, 18,427; marriages, 4,860. The number of foundlings received into the hospitals there, were 6,426.

1770 The troops which were stationed at Boston had not produced those ends for which they had been sent thither; the colonies still continued their former resolution to oppose British importations. Associations were publicly formed for this purpose; they met regularly, as if duly authorised by law; and appointed committees to inspect the cargoes of all vessels arriving from Britain. Severe censures were passed upon all who refused to concur in those associations; and their names were published in the newspapers, as enemies to their country. In some cases, goods imported from Great Britain were immediately seized as soon as landed; and secured in warehouses to prevent their sale; in other cases they were re-shipped and sent back to Great Britain.

Nothing, however, had yet been done in England respecting the affairs of the colonies; but a petition being, at this time, presented by the American merchants, setting forth the great losses they had sustained by, and the fatal effects of the late laws, which, for the purpose of raising a revenue in the colonies, had imposed duties upon goods exported from Great Britain; the Ministry of Great Britain thought proper to bring in a bill to repeal so much of the late act, as related to the imposing a duty on paper, painter's colours and glass; but in order to preserve the dignity of the legislature, and merely to save the national honour, the duty upon tea was continued.

Many strong arguments were produced in favour of repealing the act in toto; among which, it was insisted that the tax would amount to no more than sixteen thousand pounds; that to collect it, the whole establishment of custom houses, &c. must be continued, and that it would be very naturally considered in America, as an inlet to other taxes on the same plan, whenever time and opportunity were more favourable than the present, for the British Ministry to make such an attempt:—subsequent experience too fully proved, that this mode of reasoning was founded in truth. The continuance of the duty upon tea, trifling as it was, excited discontents in the colonies to a very violent degree, and their objections to it were precisely those which had been offered by the opposition in Parliament; that it would be made a precedent, upon which others of the same nature might in future be demanded.

March 26.—At a general court of the East India Company, at their house in Leadenhall-street, the following question was determined by ballot:

“That the dividend on the capital stock of this company, for the half year, commencing at Christmas last, and ending at Midsummer next, be at six per cent.”

For the question, 139—Against it, 1.

The following order of the House of Commons appeared on the 27th of April, in the London Gazette.

“Jovis, 26 die Aprilis, 1770.

“Ordered, That Mr. Speaker do forthwith give notice, that the sum of 1,500,000*l.* capital stock of annuities, after the rate of 3*l.* 10*s.* per cent. established by an act made in the 29th year

A. D.

1770 year of the reign of his late Majesty King George II. intituled, An act for granting to his Majesty the sum of 2,000,000, to be raised by way of annuities and a lottery, and charged upon the sinking fund, redeemable by Parliament, and for extending to Ireland the laws made in this kingdom against private and unlawful lotteries,—will be redeemed and paid off on the 12th day of February next, after discharging the interest then payable in respect of the same, agreeable to the clauses and powers of redemption contained in the said act.

Which order, thus signified and published by me, is to be sufficient notice of the repayment of 1,500,000*l.* for which the said annuities were established, and of the redemption of the annuities as are attending the same.

FLETCHER NORTON, *Speaker.*

The following estimate was this year published in France, of the produce of that part of the island of Hispaniola, in the possession of the French, and generally known by the name of St. Domingo.

	£.	s.	d.
Sugar, two-thirds brown, 160,000 hogsheds, ten hundred weight each,			
at 15 <i>l.</i> sterling per hoghead, — — —	2,400,000	0	0
Coffee, 5,000,000 pounds, at 4 <i>d.</i> per pound, — —	83,333	6	8
Cotton, 8,000 bags, 300 pounds weight each, at 15 <i>l.</i> per bag,	120,000	0	0
Tanned leather, 20,000 hides, at 20 <i>s.</i> per hide, —	20,000	0	0
Indigo, 2,000,000 pounds weight, at 3 <i>s.</i> per pound, —	150,000	0	0
Total,	2,773,333	6	8

In the course of this year 3,890 ships were cleared from Newcastle, of which 3,520 were coastwise, and 370 for foreign countries.

The gross produce of the duty on hops for one year, ending the 5th of January, 1771.

	£.	s.	d.
Barum, — — —	43	9	2
Bath, — — —	0	6	6
Bedford, — — —	48	16	0
Bucks, — — —	19	9	4
Cambridge, — — —	64	15	5
Canterbury, — — —	27,600	4	2
Cornwall, — — —	121	8	5
Derby, — — —	406	11	0
Doncaster, — — —	15	4	4
Dorset, — — —	14	6	2
Effex, — — —	2,781	19	8
Exon, — — —	15	10	5
Gloucester, — — —	23	10	5
Grantham, — — —	43	11	0
Hants, — — —	8,324	12	11
Hereford, — — —	7,065	2	4
Hertford, — — —	55	12	8
Lincoln, — — —	1,798	7	4
Carried over,	48,442	17	3

A. D.

1770

				£.	s.	d.
Brought over,				48,442	17	3
Lynn,	—	—	—	22	7	3
Manchester,	—	—	—	75	13	10
Northampton,	—	—	—	2	6	5
Norwich,	—	—	—	22	16	2
Oxon,	—	—	—	0	8	11
Reading,	—	—	—	1,221	7	11
Rochester,	—	—	—	28,243	12	8
Sarum,	—	—	—	129	15	8
Salop,	—	—	—	9	2	0
Sheffield,	—	—	—	704	18	8
Suffolk,	—	—	—	1,191	10	0
Surry,	—	—	—	138	17	11
Suffex,	—	—	—	13,687	2	8
Taunton,	—	—	—	6	13	0
Tiverton,	—	—	—	4	11	4
Wales,	East,	—	—	0	15	4
	Middle,	—	—	19	9	0
	West,	—	—	4	7	8
Wolverhampton,	—	—	—	4,340	14	10
Worcester,	—	—	—	2,811	14	4
Total,				101,081	2	10

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the course of this year:

To continue an act for allowing the free exportation of tallow, hog's lard, and grease, for a further limited time.

For better regulating the navigation of the river Trent, from Wilden Ferry, in the county of Derby, to Gainsborough in Lincolnshire.

For allowing the exportation of malt for a limited time.

For repealing part of an act, for granting certain duties in the British colonies in America.

To amend an act to make a navigable cut, or canal, from the Trent, at or near Wilden Ferry, in Derbyshire, to the river Mersey, &c.

To continue the terms and powers granted, for keeping in repair the harbour of Minehead in Somersetshire.

To continue the duties granted for repairing the harbour and quay of Watchett, in the said county.

To continue an act for encouraging the making of indigo in the British Plantations in America.

To appropriate a fund for granting to his Majesty additional duties on certain foreign linens imported, and for establishing a fund for encouraging the raising and dressing hemp and flax.

To continue an act for granting a bounty on British and Irish linens exported.

A. D.
1770

For registering the prices at which corn is sold, in the several counties in Great Britain.

“ The preamble to this act only suggests, that a register of the prices at which corn is sold in the several counties of Great Britain, will be of public and general advantage: for which reason the justices of the peace for each county in Great Britain, are required, at their quarter sessions, next after September 29, annually to direct returns to be made weekly of the prices of wheat, rye, barley, oats and beans, from so many market-towns within their respective counties, as they shall think proper, not being less than two, nor more than six; and to appoint a proper person to send the same to a person to be appointed to receive them; and in case such person shall die, neglect his duty, or become incapable of performing it, any two justices acting for the county, may appoint another till the next quarter sessions, at which the justices may either confirm such appointment, or chuse another.

“ By this act, the meal-weighers of the city of London are to take an account of the prices at the markets, within the said city, and return the average weekly to the person appointed to receive the same.

“ The justices for each county shall cause also a standard Winchester bushel of eight gallons to be kept at every market town, from whence such returns shall be made; and such returns shall be the average prices by the customary measure of each respective market; and also by that Winchester bushel.

“ By this act, the Lord High Treasurer is empowered to appoint a fit person to receive the returns at the Treasury, and to enter them fairly in a book kept for that purpose; and all exports and imports of grain from and into Great Britain, with the bounties paid and received thereon, to be transmitted annually to the same person, and registered in proper books by the person appointed to receive the returns of the prices from the several counties. It was enacted to continue in force for seven years.”

To explain and amend several acts, for providing a public reward for discovering the longitude at sea.

A bill to prevent delays of justice, by reason of privilege of Parliament.

Though this bill appears, at the first view, to be a mere practical alteration in law process, a little further examination will discover it, in its consequences, to operate very powerfully as a commercial advantage, and on that account we shall give a short abstract of it.

“ It is thereby enacted, that from the 24th of June in this year, any person may, at any time, commence or prosecute any action or suit, in any court of record, or court of admiralty, and in all causes matrimonial and testamentary, against any Peer or Lord of Parliament of Great Britain, or against any of the knights, citizens and burgeses, and the commissioners for shires and burghs of the House of Commons of Great Britain, or against their menial or other servants, or any other person entitled to the privilege of the Parliament of Great Britain; and no such action, suit, or any other process or proceeding thereupon, shall at any time be impeached, stayed, or delayed, by or under colour or pretence of any privilege of Parliament.

“ It is nevertheless provided, that nothing in this act shall extend to subject the person of any Lord or Member of Parliament to be arrested or imprisoned upon any such suit or proceeding: by this act, however, obedience may be enforced to any rule of his Majesty's courts, against any person entitled to privilege of Parliament, by distress infinite; and the issues arising from such distress may be sold, from time to time, for the payment of the plaintiff's costs, &c.”

A bill for the better regulating persons employed in the service of the East India Company.

For

A. D.

1770 For compleating the navigation of the river Swale, from its junction with the Ure to Mer-ton bridge, in Yorkshire.

For making a navigable canal from Leeds to the sea bank, near the North Ladies Walk, by Liverpool.

For extending the like liberty to the exportation of rice from East and West Florida, to the southward of Cape Finisterre, in Europe, as is granted to Carolina and Georgia.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of salted provisions from Ireland, and from the American colonies, for a further limited time.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1770.

	£.	s.	d.
For 17,666 land forces, &c. — — — —	624,992	0	2
For maintaining garrisons in the Plantations, Gibraltar, &c. — — — —	383,248	1	11½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishment of five battalions, &c. — — — —	4,533	12	8
For the pay of the general and staff officers, &c. — — — —	12,203	18	6½
For defraying the charge of full pay for one year, for certain reduced officers, — — — —	4,513	16	8
For the pensions payable to widows of certain reduced officers, — — — —	664	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces and marines for the year 1770, — — — —	123,233	2	6
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse guards, &c. — — — —	1,289	1	3
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service — — — —	166,984	11	5
For defraying the expence of service performed by the office of ordnance for land service, not provided for by Parliament in 1769 — — — —	40,933	10	8
For 16,000 seamen, &c. — — — —	832,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, — — — —	406,380	13	11
Towards building, repairing, &c. of ships, &c. — — — —	283,687	0	0
Towards the extraordinaries of his Majesty's land forces, &c. not pro- vided for by Parliament, — — — —	235,264	10	9½
Towards the charge of Chelsea out-pensioners, — — — —	112,423	4	7
On account of the civil establishment of West Florida, &c. — — — —	4,800	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, &c. — — — —	4,750	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, &c. — — — —	3,086	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — — —	4,239	0	5
On account of general surveys in North America, — — — —	1,885	4	0
On account of the civil government of Senegambia, &c. — — — —	5,550	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, — — — —	1,800,000	0	0
To the African Company, for maintaining forts, &c. on the coast of Africa, — — — —	13,000	0	0
Towards assisting the inhabitants of Barbadoes in defraying the expence of cleansing the channel, repairing the mole, and rendering the harbour more safe and commodious, — — — —	5,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum which has been issued, in pursuance of addresses of the House of Commons, — — — —	13,100	0	0

S 2

Carried over,

5,087,761 9 6½

A. D.

1770

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	5,087,761	9	6½
To the British Museum, — — —	2,000	0	0
For a more commodious passage to the House of Commons,	2,000	0	0
On account, to enable his Majesty to discharge the debts owing upon the forfeited estates in Scotland; and also for paying and discharging the prices agreed to be paid to the Lords Superiors, for the purchase of the superiorities of, and likewise for their claims of property to, certain specified estates which were forfeited in that kingdom, —	72,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good certain deficiencies, &c. — — —	46,463	12	8
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1769,	55,011	7	5½
To discharge certain unsatisfied claims and demands incurred during the late war in Germany, &c. — — —	45,565	12	0
To the Levant Company, to assist the said company in carrying on their trade, — — —	5,000	0	0
On account, to the Foundling Hospital, &c. — — —	9,650	0	0
To enable the said hospital to apprentice certain children, &c.	3,500	0	0
To enable his Majesty to redeem and pay off the capital stock of certain annuities, &c. — — —	1,500,000	0	0
To pay the benefit prizes of the lottery charged upon the supplies of the current year, — — —	500,000	0	0
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, — — —	6,998	10	2
Towards discharging the debt of the navy, — — —	100,000	0	0
To enable his Majesty to make compensation to Francis Dalby, of London, merchant, for the damages which the said Francis Dalby suffered by the stoppage and loss of his ship called the Britannia, at Mahon, by order of the late Admiral Matthews, and by the use, employment and detainer of his ship called the Francis, by order of the commanders of his Majesty's fleets, — — —	6,195	8	11
To enable his Majesty to make good the like sum which has been paid to several persons in the county of Southampton, as a compensation for certain losses and expences incurred, pursuant to several orders of council, for preventing the spreading of the distemper among the horned cattle,	796	7	6
To John Hatsell, Esq. clerk of the House of Commons, towards defraying the expence of printing the journals of the House, &c. —	600	0	0
To be advanced to such person, or persons, as the Speaker of this House shall authorize to receive the same, towards defraying the expence of making a general index to the journals of this House, —	500	0	0
Towards defraying the expence of printing 1,250 copies, of such parliamentary and other records as his Majesty shall think fit, —	6,000	0	0
Total of supplies,	7,450,042	8	3

A. D.

1770

WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, &c. — — — —	700,000	0	0
Land tax, — — — —	1,528,568	11	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Exchequer bills, — — — —	1,800,000	0	0
From the certain surplusses of the sinking fund, &c. —	299,375	6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
From the East India Company — —	400,000	0	0
For the specified surplus of the sinking fund, remaining in the Exchequer, for the disposition of Parliament, — —	773,240	16	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
From a surplus, over and above the said surplus, of the sinking fund, —	13,596	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
By a lottery, — — — —	500,000	0	0
From the sinking fund, — — — —	1,700,000	0	0
By a balance remaining in the office of the paymaster-general, &c. —	55,495	15	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
From the duties, &c. directed to be reserved for the disposition of Parliament, towards protecting and defending the British colonies, &c. —	20,000	0	0
By the final balance of the Earl of Kinnoul, formerly paymaster of his Majesty's forces, &c. — — — —	3,948	3	7
Total Ways and Means, — —	7,794,224	19	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total Supplies, — — — —	7,450,042	8	3
Excess of Provisions, — — — —	344,182	11	5 $\frac{1}{2}$

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia of England, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1770, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land-tax granted for the service of the said year.

An account of additional duties, regulations, bounties, &c. in the course of this year :—

The bounties granted on British and Irish linens exported, by an act made in the 29th of his late Majesty, were continued :—And the duties on the importation of foreign raw linen-yarn, which are taken off by the said act, were further discontinued.—A bounty was also allowed on the exportation of British chequed and striped linens : and the sum of 15,000*l.* granted by an act passed in the 7th of his present Majesty, entitled, “ An Act for granting to his Majesty additional Duties on certain foreign Linens imported into this Kingdom, and for establishing a Fund for the encouraging of the raising and dressing of Hemp and Flax,” was voted to be appropriated.

The duties payable upon the importation into this kingdom of bast or straw, chip, cane, or horse-hair hats and bonnets, and upon certain materials for making the same, ceased and determined : and, in lieu of all former duties, any of these articles, which, after the 24th of June, 1770, should be imported into this kingdom, were to pay the old subsidy, granted by the act of tonnage and poundage, made in the 12th of Charles II. after the rate of 12*s.* 6*d.* per dozen ; each hat or bonnet not exceeding 22 inches diameter ; and 1*l.* 5*s.* per dozen, of such hats, &c. as should exceed 22 inches diameter.—And, in lieu of all former duties, all platting, or other manufactures of the aforesaid materials, proper for making of hats or bonnets, which, after the 24th of June, 1770, should be imported into this kingdom, were to pay the said old subsidy, after the rate of 6*s.* 8*d.* for every pound weight avoirdupois.

IMPORTS

A. D.
1770

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1769, to CHRISTMAS 1770.

Countries.			Imports.			Exports.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa,	—	—	68,449	13	7	571,003	6	9
Canaries,	—	—	10,656	8	9	41,352	11	10
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	76,898	17	2	167,257	4	11
East Country,	—	—	175,552	15	6	80,329	0	8
East India,	—	—	1,941,627	4	0	1,082,030	8	10
Flanders,	—	—	113,860	11	7	678,286	12	1
France,	—	—	65,975	19	11	156,509	6	7
Germany,	—	—	684,463	8	11	1,272,569	0	4
Greenland,	—	—	22,626	6	1	29	6	4
Holland,	—	—	352,535	6	4	1,766,333	10	2
Ireland,	—	—	1,214,398	4	5	2,125,406	12	8
Italy,	—	—	815,944	17	2	756,385	11	3
Madeiras,	—	—	4,935	12	6	26,500	15	3
Portugal,	—	—	329,663	3	4	534,708	19	1
Russia,	—	—	1,046,710	5	11	145,743	6	9
Spain,	—	—	505,267	13	2	887,099	1	4
Streights,	—	—	7,083	11	5	148,813	18	3
Sweden,	—	—	136,616	6	0	58,576	4	8
Turkey,	—	—	164,366	3	6	22,032	15	8
Venice,	—	—	82,963	19	7	71,541	5	4
Alderney,	—	—	38	10	0	992	9	8
Guernsey,	—	—	27,735	18	8	26,656	14	6
Jersey,	—	—	19,768	5	9	24,959	1	7
Canada,	—	—	40,703	6	7	231,626	6	6
Carolina,	—	—	278,907	14	0	146,273	17	0
Cape Breton,	—	—	197	4	4			
Florida,	—	—	3,688	3	0	39,857	12	11
Georgia,	—	—	55,532	7	5	56,193	16	7
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	10,715	0	7	4,623	2	1
New England,	—	—	148,011	14	9	394,451	7	5
Newfoundland,	—	—	45,108	11	0	91,058	0	0
New Providence,	—	—	6,387	11	10	6,060	7	7
New York,	—	—	69,882	10	5	475,991	12	0
Nova Scotia,	—	—	7,324	7	4	45,092	4	10
Pennsylvania,	—	—	28,109	5	11	134,881	15	5
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—	435,094	9	7	717,782	17	3
Anguilla,	—	—	167	17	11			
Antigua,	—	—	349,102	1	8	112,533	2	0
Barbadoes,	—	—	283,455	19	1	203,568	9	8
Bermudas,	—	—				9,705	15	6
Dominica,	—	—	136,152	18	7	34,209	7	10
Grenada,	—	—	433,421	12	1	136,792	12	8
Jamaica,	—	—	1,274,807	13	6	558,219	10	6
Montserrat,	—	—	83,947	9	1	19,297	16	5
Nevis,	—	—	97,152	19	5	17,307	10	3
St. Croix,	—	—	21,386	12	9	1,069	5	3
St. Christopher's,	—	—	324,287	7	8	96,834	10	1
St. Eustatia,	—	—	476	18	11			
St. Vincent,	—	—	81,965	18	3	42,821	13	11
Tobago,	—	—	2,323	11	10	19,123	4	9
Tortola,	—	—	43,230	4	4	16,985	12	9
Spanish West Indies, Honduras Bay,	—	—	87,256	19	2	9,115	1	9
Totals,			12,216	93	7 14 3	14,266	653	17 5
Exports exceed the Imports,			2,049	716	3 2			

A. D.

1770 The number of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 12, 1769, to December 11, 1770, is as follows:

Christened, males	8,761	Buried, males	11,210
———— females	8,348	———— females	11,224
	17,109		22,434

At York, there were in this year, christenings, 517; burials, 429; marriages, 175.

At Paris,—births, 19,549; deaths, 18,719; marriages, 4,775; foundlings received into the hospitals, 6,918.

1771 As our difference with the court of Spain, relative to Falkland's Islands, forms a very important part of the business of this year, it becomes us to give some account of the subject of it.

Those islands called by us Falkland's, and by the French, the Malouines, lie in about $51\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of southern latitude, and about 100 leagues on this side of the Straights of Magellan. They were first discovered in the year 1592, by Captain Davies, who was in too great distress at the time, to make any particular observations on them; nor did he even give them a name; which was reserved for Sir Richard Hawkins, who, about two years after, again discovered them, and, in honour of his mistress, as well as to perpetuate his own name, called them Hawkins's Maiden Land. They were afterwards discovered by the Dutch, who gave them the name of the Sebaldine Islands. To one Strong, who fell in with them in the reign of King William, they owe their present English appellation, and from some ships belonging to St. Maloes, who visited them, they received the name of the Malouines, which has also been adopted by the Spaniards.

Lord Anson's voyage first shewed the great advantage that would be produced to this nation in time of war, to have a friendly port and place of refreshment, considerably more to the south, and much nearer Cape Horn than the Brazils. Besides the jealousy, and the general unfriendly behaviour of the Portuguese in that quarter, the voyage from thence to the South Seas is of so great a length, that the vigour and health of the men, as well as their water and other provisions, must be greatly exhausted before they arrive at the scene of action; to which may be added, that the ships become foul and out of condition from such a continued stretch of navigation. Another reason, equally material with the preceding ones, was the certainty that the Spaniards would be well informed by the Portuguese of the strength, condition, and destination of any fleet long before its design could be put in execution.

This scheme of Lord Anson, then First Lord of the Admiralty, was on the point of being adopted, very soon after the peace of 1748; but the court of Spain gaining intelligence of the project before it could be carried into execution, made such strong representations against it both here and at Madrid, that it was then laid aside, and continued in a dormant state, till it was again revived by the Earl of Egmont, when he presided at the head of the Admiralty: Commodore Byron was then sent out to renew the designs of Lord Anson, and in the beginning of the year 1765 took possession of Falkland's Islands in the name of his Britannic Majesty.

About the same time, or, perhaps, rather previous to it, Monsieur de Bougainville sailed from St. Maloes on a voyage of discovery, and arriving at Falkland's islands, built a small fort and formed an establishment there, which about two years after was ceded to Spain, and its
name

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1771 name changed from Port Louis to Port Solidad. The British settlement called Port Egmont, was fixed on a small island adjoining to the greater and most western of the two considerable islands, and Port Solidad, on the eastern and lesser of the principal islands.

It does not appear that either of the settlements on these islands knew of the other; but however that might be, we find that in the year 1769, we had a frigate and a sloop upon that station, and Captain Hunt, of the *Farmer* frigate, being on a cruise off the islands, fell in with a Spanish schooner belonging to Port Solidad, taking a survey of them, the captain of which, according to his orders, he warned to depart from that coast, as belonging to his Britannic Majesty. The schooner, however, returned in two days, and brought on board a Spanish officer with letters and a present from Don Phillip Ruez Puente, Governor of Port Solidad. In these letters, which were written in terms of great civility, the governor affected not to believe the account he had received from the captain of the schooner, but attributed the English frigate being in those seas to chance or distress of weather; but if it should be otherwise, he reminded Captain Hunt of the violation of treaties, asserted his master's dominion, and warned him to depart. Captain Hunt, in answer, asserted the sole dominion of his Britannic Majesty, and warned the Spanish Governor, in his turn, to quit the islands. This explanation produced those consequences, which occasioned his Majesty in the speech from the throne, at the opening of the sessions, to inform Parliament, that the Governor of Buenos Ayres had seized by force a possession of the British crown, and that preparations were making to sustain the national rights, and to revenge the national honour. A negotiation between the two crowns, however, took place on the occasion, and after much misunderstanding and discussion between the Ministers of the two Courts, the matter in dispute, which, trifling as it was, might have involved Europe in war, was finally settled, according to the tenor of the following papers.

The declaration signed and delivered by Prince de Maferano, ambassador extraordinary from his Catholic Majesty, dated January 22, 1771.

“His Britannic Majesty having complained of the violence which was committed on the 10th of June, 1770, at the island commonly called the Great Malouine, and by the English, Falkland's Island, in obliging, by force, the commander and subjects of his Britannic Majesty, to evacuate the port, by them called Egmont; a step offensive to the honour of his crown;—the Prince de Maferano, ambassador extraordinary of his Catholic Majesty, has received orders to declare, and declares, that his Catholic Majesty, considering the desire with which he is animated for peace, and for the maintenance of good harmony with his Britannic Majesty, and reflecting that this event might interrupt it, has seen with displeasure this expedition tending to disturb it; and in the persuasion in which he is, of the reciprocity of sentiments of his Britannic Majesty; and of its being far from his intention to authorize any thing that might disturb the good understanding between the two courts; his Catholic Majesty does disavow the said violent enterprize; and in consequence, the Prince de Maferano declares, that his Catholic Majesty engages to give immediate orders, that things shall be restored in the Great Malouine, at the port called Egmont, precisely to the state in which they were before the 10th of June, 1770: for which purpose his Catholic Majesty will give orders to one of his officers, to deliver up to the officer, authorized by his Britannic Majesty, the port and fort called Egmont; with all the artillery, stores and effects of his Britannic Majesty, and his subjects which were at that place, the day above-named; agreeable to the inventory which has been made of them.”

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" The Prince de Maserano declares at the same time, in the name of the King his master, that the engagement of his said Catholic Majesty, to restore to his Britannic Majesty, the possession of the fort and port called Egmont, cannot, nor ought, any wise, to affect the question of the prior right of sovereignty of the Malouine Islands, otherwise called Falkland's Islands. In witness whereof, I, the underwritten, ambassador extraordinary, have signed the present declaration with my usual signature, and caused it to be sealed with our arms. London, the 22d day of January, 1771.

" (Signed)

LE PRINCE DE MASERANO, (L. S.)"

The Earl of Rochford's acceptance, dated the 22d day of January, 1771, of the Prince de Maserano's declaration of the same date.

" His Catholic Majesty having authorised the Prince de Maserano, his ambassador extraordinary, to offer, in his Majesty's name, to the King of Great Britain, a satisfaction for the injury done to his Britannic Majesty, by dispossessing him of the port and fort of Egmont; and the said ambassador having this day signed a declaration, which he has justly delivered to me, expressing therein, that his Catholic Majesty, being desirous to restore the good harmony and friendship which before subsisted between the two crowns, does disavow the expedition against Port Egmont, in which force has been used against his Britannic Majesty's possessions, commander, and subjects; and does also engage, that all things shall be immediately restored to the precise situation in which they stood before the 10th of June, 1770. And that his Catholic Majesty shall give orders, in consequence, to one of his officers, to deliver up to the officer, authorized by his Britannic Majesty, the port and fort of Port Egmont, as also all his Britannic Majesty's artillery, stores, and effects, as well as those of his subjects, according to the inventory which has been made of them. And the said ambassador having moreover engaged, in his Catholic Majesty's name, that what is contained in the said declaration shall be carried into effect by his said Catholic Majesty; and that duplicates of his Catholic Majesty's orders to his officers shall be delivered into the hands of one of his Britannic Majesty's principal secretaries of state within six weeks: his said Britannic Majesty, in order to shew the same friendly dispositions on his part, has authorised me to declare, that he will look upon the said declaration of Prince de Maserano, together with the full performance of the said engagement, on the part of his Catholic Majesty, as a satisfaction for the injury done to the crown of Great Britain. In witness whereof, I, underwritten, one of his Britannic Majesty's principal secretaries of state, have signed these presents with my usual signature, and caused them to be sealed with our arms. London, the 22d day of January, 1771.

" (Signed)

ROCHFORD, (L. S.)"

His Catholic Majesty's orders, signified by the Balio Fray Don Julian de Arriaga, to Don Philip Ruez Puente, dated Pardo, 7th of February, 1771.

" It being agreed between the King and his Britannic Majesty, by a convention signed at London on the 22d of January last past, by the Prince de Maserano and the Earl of Rochford, that the Great Malouine, called by the English Falkland's Island, should be immediately replaced in the precise situation in which it was before it was evacuated by them on the 10th of June last year; I signify to you, by the King's orders, that as soon as the person commissioned by the court of London shall present himself to you with this, you order the delivery of the port de la Cruzada or Egmont, and its fort and dependencies, to be effected; as also that of all the artillery, ammunition, and effects, that were found there, belonging to his Britannic Majesty and his subjects, according to the inventories signed by George Farmer and William

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1771 Maltby, Esqrs. on the 11th of July of the said year, at the time of their quitting the same, of which I send you the enclosed copies, authenticated under my hand; and that as soon as the one and the other shall be effected, with the due formalities, you cause to retire immediately the officer, and other subjects of the King, which may be there. God preserve you many years.

(Signed)

" Pardo, February 7, 1771.

The Balio Fray Don Julian de Arriaga.

" To Don Philip Ruez Puente."

Commodore Byron represented these islands in a very favourable point of view; this account is confirmed by the French, who speak highly of the climate, soil, &c. But the British officer who succeeded Mr. Byron gives a very different history, in which he is seconded by Mr. Thomas Falkner, an English Jesuit of Buenos Ayres, who, on account of his geographical knowledge, was sent to make a chart of the sea coast from the river of Plata to the Magellanic Straights, and in this voyage was for some time on these islands. He speaks of them as possessing no one interior circumstance, to induce any nation to form a colony on them. These latter accounts are more fully justified by the conduct of Great Britain, who has since silently abandoned them.

The apprehension, at this time, that a rupture might take place between Great Britain and the House of Bourbon on account of the Falkland's Islands, did not, perhaps, a little contribute to the inflexibility of the colonies, which seemed rather to increase, in proportion to the concessions made by Parliament to them.

Thus they continued to encourage their own manufactures and to discourage those of Great Britain, as far as it was practicable in a country that could not flourish without importing a considerable number of the most essential articles requisite for the most necessary branches of business, and could not procure them any where so well made and on such advantageous terms as from Great Britain. Necessity, therefore, compelled them to relax, by degrees, the resolutions of their former agreements of non-importation, so that the general intercourse in commercial matters proceeded in its usual channel, without any material interruption.

But the political intercourse was attended every where with violent dissensions; governors were embroiled in continual disputes with their provincial assemblies. At Boston, the resistance to the revenue officers had been accompanied with great inhumanity; and the General Assembly of Massachusetts did not hesitate openly to notify to the governor, that they knew of no customs or revenue his Majesty had a right to establish there.

Account of the cloths manufactured each year in the West Riding of the county of York, from 1749 to 1770; both inclusive.

Years.	Broad Cloths.	Narrow Cloths.		Years.	Broad Cloths.	Narrow Cloths.
1749	60,705 $\frac{1}{2}$	68,889	—	1760	49,362 $\frac{1}{2}$	69,573
1750	60,447 $\frac{1}{2}$	78,115	—	1761	48,944	75,468
1751	60,964	74,022	—	1762	48,621	72,946
1752	60,724	72,442	—	1763	48,038 $\frac{1}{2}$	72,096
1753	55,358	71,618	—	1764	54,916	79,458
1754	56,070 $\frac{1}{2}$	72,394	—	1765	54,660	77,419
1755	57,125	76,295	—	1766	72,575 $\frac{1}{2}$	78,893
1756	33,590 $\frac{1}{2}$	79,318	—	1767	102,428	78,819
1757	55,777	77,097	—	1768	90,036	74,480
1758	60,396	66,396	—	1769	92,522	87,762
1759	51,877 $\frac{1}{2}$	65,513	—	1770	93,074	85,376

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Number of broad cloths milled each year at the several fulling mills in the West Riding of the county of York, from the commencement of the act, viz. from June, 1725, to the 12th of March; nine months; and of narrow cloths, from the commencement of the act, viz. from the 1st of August, 1737, to the 20th of January, 1738, being six months and twenty days, and from that time yearly.

From June 1725	Broads.		Years.	Broads.	Narrows.
To March 1726	26,671	—	1738	42,404	14,495
1727	28,990	—	1739	43,086 $\frac{1}{2}$	58,848
1728	25,223 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1740	41,441	58,620
1729	29,643 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1741	46,364	61,196
1730	31,579 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1742	44,954	62,804
1731	33,563	—	1743	45,178 $\frac{1}{2}$	63,545
1732	35,548 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1744	54,627 $\frac{1}{2}$	63,065
1733	34,620	—	1745	50,453	63,423
1734	31,123	—	1746	56,637	68,775
1735	31,744 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1747	62,480	68,374
1736	38,899	—	1748	60,765	68,080
1737	42,256				

Number of yards (pieces being now of different lengths) of broad and narrow cloths made in the years ending at Pontefract sessions, 1769 and 1770.

Years.	Broads.	Narrows.
1769	2,771,667 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,144,019
1770	2,717,105	2,255,625

The following state of the export linen and linen yarn trade of Ireland, for seventy years, shews its vast improvement within that period.

Years.	Yarn.	Linen.	Total Amount.
1701	39,000	14,000	53,000
1711	44,000	78,000	122,000
1721	88,000	126,000	214,000
1731	84,000	220,000	304,000
1741	129,000	480,000	509,000
1751	142,000	751,000	893,000
1761	238,999	803,000	1,041,999
1771	204,000	1,691,000	1,895,000

It appears by the export entries at the custom-house at Dublin, whence this account was taken, that the linen trade alone has decreased 5,000,000 of yards, of the invoice value of 350,000*l.* in the year 1772; and by the best estimate that could be formed of the exports from March 1772 to March 1773, they were supposed to have further decreased one-third, which would bring them under 900,000*l.* so that the exports of linen and yarn taken together, will fall short of 1,100,000; little more than one half of their amount in the year 1771.

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The following is an account of the total quantities of British and Irish linens exported from England, from the commencement of the bounty to January 1772, distinguishing the quantities and bounties paid each year.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>British Linens. Yards.</i>	<i>Irish Linens. Yards.</i>	<i>Bounties Paid. or Payable.</i>
1743	52,779	40,907	383 10 8
1744	49,521	28,255	311 7 9
1745	56,240	101,928	747 17 6
1746	175,928	695,002	4,188 10 9
1747	238,014	595,277	4,290 12 0
1748	330,747	723,663	5,594 1 10
1749	414,834	965,897	8,615 1 4
1750	588,874	742,032	8,308 16 8
1751	527,976	854,490	8,617 8 2
1752	437,277	968,319	8,775 13 10
1753	641,510	1,039,967	10,058 16 5
1754	1,382,796	843,973	13,905 7 11
1755	41,367	51,040	577 11 0
1756	394,746	719,135	6,932 11 8
1757	1,016,754	2,055,575	18,847 3 8
1758	1,942,667	2,171,109	25,690 15 4
1759	1,693,087	1,956,572	22,807 11 1
1760	1,413,602	2,352,585	23,538 13 1
1761	1,272,985	1,819,329	19,324 11 3
1762	1,762,643	2,930,476	29,331 19 10
1763	2,308,310	2,588,564	30,604 6 9
1764	2,134,733	1,858,780	24,863 9 3
1765	2,095,933	1,663,670	23,497 10 4
1766	2,236,086	1,770,634	25,042 0 0
1767	2,444,181	2,227,124	29,182 6 11
1768	2,687,457	2,270,160	30,985 2 1
1769	3,056,950	1,855,159	30,699 3 5
1770	3,216,506	2,707,482	36,972 18 4
1771	4,411,040	3,450,224	44,738 8 10

Extract from the accounts of the linen stamped in the following years in Scotland, as attested at the linen hall established by the Board of Trustees at Edinburgh, instituted in the year 1727.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Value. £.</i>
1727 to 1728	2,183,978	103,312
1747 to 1748	6,661,788	262,866
1757 to 1758	9,764,408	401,511
1767 to 1768	13,224,557	637,346

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An authentic account of the total quantities of foreign linens imported into England in the following years, converted into British yards, and the duties paid thereon.

Years	1762	Yards	18,827,853 $\frac{1}{4}$	£.	134,031	14	1
—	1763	—	26,634,851	—	185,476	19	4
—	1764	—	28,092,215 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	201,711	3	7
—	1765	—	25,497,795 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	182,997	0	11
—	1766	—	25,624,107 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	184,657	1	2
—	1767	—	21,054,411	—	164,532	8	10
—	1768	—	23,112,349	—	199,467	0	10
—	1769	—	25,431,162 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	217,386	9	0
—	1770	—	27,101,343 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	221,333	8	9
—	1771	—	28,243,121 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	230,951	14	2

A summary view of the judgment of different dealers in the different counties of Great Britain, according to a number of years, respecting the proportionate decrease of oak timber.

Persons.	Counties, &c.	Years.	Decrease.
Wood & Palmer	Whitehaven, in the north,	40	Seven-eighths.
Okil,	Lancashire, Cheshire, North Wales,	50	Three-fourths.
Galightly,	Lancash. Chesh. Shropsh. Staff. Wales,	50	Seven-tenths.
Yoxal,	Cheshire, — — —	30	One-half.
Walford,	Shropshire, — — —	30	Four-fifths.
Bridge,	Caernarv. Denbighsh. Merion. Flintsh.	15	Two-thirds.
Mostin, Esq.	In Denbighshire, advertised for sale,	1	One-third.
James,	Caermarthensh. Pembroke sh. Cardigan sh.	30	Nine-tenths.
Morgan,	Caermarthen shire, &c.	13	Seven-eighths.
Lomax,	Brecknockshire, — — —	30	Two-thirds.
Moore,	Worcest. Gloucestersh. Herefordsh. Monm.	40	Four-fifths.
Smith,	Worcestershire, Warwickshire,	40	Four-fifths.
Rooke,	{ Devonsh. Dorsetsh. Somersetsh. Cornwall,	40	Four-fifths.
	Hants, Surry, Kent, Suffex,	40	Nine-tenths.
Steele,	The south parts, — — —	40 to 50	Seven-eighths.
Chitty,	Timber counties in general,	40	Nine-tenths.
Dearfly,	Effex, &c. — — —	14	Three-fourths.
Shields,	Yorkshire, — — —	40	Four-fifths.
White,	Hampshire, — — —	40	Three-fourths.
Morris,	Surry, &c. — — —	20	Three-fourths.
Martin,	Newport, Greenock, Ayre, Dumfries,	21	No supply.
Miller,	River Clyde, Port Glasgow,	17	No supply.
Palmer,	Shropshire, Montgomeryshire,	Several	Great consumption.
H. Williams,	Pembroke shire, — — —	Always	Great destruction.
W. Williams,	Glamor. Monm. Gloucef. Heref. Shropsh.	15	alm. intire destruction.
Matthews,	Bristol, — — —	10	Not $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the choice.
Andrews,	Plymouth, — — —	30	Decr. very considerable
Bird,	London, all round, — — —		Very little remaining.
Goldsworth,	General, — — —	in 19	Price from 3l. to 4l. 5s.
Mills,	Surry, Kent, Suffex, — — —	40	Almost all taken down
Sir J. Philips,	Pembroke shire, — — —		Alm. intirely cut down

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An account of the progressive increase of the revenue of the post-office, for 100 years.

In 1644, Mr. Edmund Prideaux, who was inland post-master, was supposed to collect about 5,000l. per annum.

In 1654, the Parliament farmed the posts to Mr. Manley, at 10,000l.

In 1664, Daniel O'Neal, Esq. farmed them at 21,500l.

In 1674, they were let out at 43,000l.

In 1685, the gross was estimated at 65,000l.

In 1688, the posts amount was 76,318l.

In 1697, it was, according to Dr. Davenant, 90,505l.

In 1710, they were 111,461l.

In 1715, the gross amount of the inland office came to 145,227l.

In 1744, the same amounted to 198,226l.

[But the total gross amount of both inland and foreign offices, which can alone demonstrate the extent of our correspondence, was that year 235,492l.]

In 1764, the gross amount was 432,048l.

During the year 1771, the Dutch employed 120 ships in the Greenland trade, which brought home 500 whales, and 14,320 barrels of oil.—Three of their ships caught 15 whales, and foundered with them.

In the course of this year, 4,653 ships were cleared at the custom-house, Newcastle; of which 4,211 were coasters, and 442 for foreign parts:

And 1,794 vessels entered the Texel.

The following are the only bills relating to trade and commerce which received the royal assent in this session:—

A bill to prevent counterfeiting the copper coin of the realm.

For repairing, amending, and supporting the several harbours and sea-ports in the isle of Man.

For prohibiting the importation of foreign wrought silks and velvets, for a further limited time, and to prevent the unlawful combination of workmen employed in that trade.

For prohibiting, for a limited time, the exportation of live cattle, and fresh provisions.

For continuing the bounty on the tonnage of shipping employed in the Greenland whale-fishery.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1771:

For 40,000 seamen, including 8,073 marines,	—	—	—	2,080,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy,	—	—	—	378,752	18	7
For building and repairs of ships, &c.	—	—	—	423,747	0	0
For 23,432 effective troops,	—	—	—	720,629	12	3
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the plantations, Minorca, Gibraltar, &c.	—	—	—	479,170	1	11½
For defraying the difference between the British and Irish establishments of certain troops,	—	—	—	4,533	12	8
For the office of ordnance for the land service,	—	—	—	259,074	16	11
For the services of ditto, for ditto, not provided for by Parliament, in 1770,	—	—	—	35,443	0	7
Carried over,				£. 4,381,351	2	11½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	4,381,351	2	11½
Towards enabling the commissioners to build a bridge across the river Thames, from the city of Westminster to the opposite shore, and to maintain the said bridge, &c.	2,000	0	0
For the general and staff-officers in Great Britain,	11,291	8	6½
For pensions to widows of certain reduced officers,	664	0	0
On account of reduced officers of his Majesty's forces, &c.	117,858	10	0
For allowances to the several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	1,277	15	5
For one year's full pay to certain reduced officers,	2,962	11	8
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	5,796	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	4,350	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	6,100	0	0
For general surveys in North America,	1,885	4	0
Towards extraordinaries of the army, &c.	359,927	0	7½
On account of the out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital,	112,005	0	0
For paying off and discharging certain Exchequer bills, &c.	1,800,000	0	0
To the Foundling Hospital,	2,970	0	0
To ditto,	27,030	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	200,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good certain deficiencies,	35,085	2	11
To make good to his Majesty the like sum, issued in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	14,700	0	0
To make good the like sum paid to several persons, as compensations for certain losses sustained, &c.	799	12	2
On account of the civil establishment of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9½
To the Levant Company, to assist them in carrying on their trade,	5,000	0	0
For repairing, maintaining, &c. the British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For the more effectually repairing the fort of Cape Coast Castle, on the coast of Africa,	2,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,928	2	0
To enable his Majesty to make good to the East India Company the expences incurred by the said Company in the expedition to Manilla,	28,365	15	8
For reimbursing to the province of New Hampshire, their expences in furnishing provisions, &c. to the troops raised by them for his Majesty's service, for the campaign of 1756,	6,009	13	3
Total of Supplies,	7,160,779	10	5

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WAYS and MEANS for this year :—

	£.	s.	d.
Malt-tax, — — — —	700,000	0	0
The land-tax, (at 4s.) — — — —	2,037,854	19	11
By Exchequer bills, — — — —	1,800,000	0	0
Lottery, — — — —	200,000	0	0
From the sinking fund, — — — —	691,977	7	9
From ditto, — — — —	1,650,000	0	0
The surplus of grants for certain services, — —	89,658	16	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
The East India Company, — — — —	400,000	0	0
Out of such monies as have been granted for protecting, &c. the British colonies and plantations, — — — —	20,000	0	0
The surplus of the two-sevenths of the excise, granted for certain purposes, — — — —	30,291	11	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
The surplus in the Exchequer for the disposition of Parliament, over and above the surplus of the sinking fund remaining for the same purpose, — — — —	20,000	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total of ways and means, — — — —	7,639,782	17	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Supply granted, — — — —	7,160,779	10	5
Excess of provisions, — — — —	£. 479,003	6	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

✍ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia in England for one year, beginning March 25, 1771, was voted to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land tax, granted for the service of the year 1771.

Additional duties, regulation of duties, and bounties in this year.

An additional number of hackney-coaches were licensed, not to exceed 300; and the new licences were extended to all places within the cities of London and Westminster, and the limits of the weekly bills of mortality: and for which a rent of 5s. a week was charged, during the continuance of such licence.

The term for the bounty on vessels built for the white-herring-fishery expiring this year, it was voted to give a bounty of 30s. per ton to all vessels, from 28 to 80 tons, which have been built since the year 1760, or should hereafter be built, for the purpose of the white-herring fisheries, and should be actually employed therein.

A bounty was continued on the ships employed in the whale-fishery to Greenland, Davis's Straits, and places adjacent, for a limited time: and after the expiration of the existing bounties, 40s. per ton was granted on all ships employed in the said fishery, for the term of five years; 30s. per ton for a second term of five years; and after the expiration of the second term, a bounty of 20s. per ton for an additional five years, ending with the session of Parliament.

All the duties payable on account of the harbours of the Isle of Man, were ordered to cease and determine; and the following duties were substituted in lieu thereof:—

Three-halfpence per ton on all vessels, not being laden, or in ballast, belonging to any of his Majesty's subjects, which shall arrive or put into any of the harbours in the said island; and 2d. for all foreign ships.

A duty

A. D.

1771 A duty of 2d. per ton on all British vessels, being laden, or having any cargo on board, whether they should break bulk, or deliver any part of their cargo, or not; and 3d. upon foreign ships.

An additional duty of 1d. per ton upon all British vessels which should be repaired in any of the harbours in the said island; and 2d. for all foreign ships.

An additional duty of 2d. per ton on all foreign vessels which should break bulk, and deliver any part of their cargo.

A duty of 2s. 6d. upon every foreign ship anchoring in any of the bays of the said island.

A duty of 2s. 6d. per ton upon all spirits; 1s. 6d. per hogshead upon tobacco; 2s. per hundred-weight upon teas; 1s. per hundred-weight upon coffee; and 2s. 6d. per tun upon all wines, imported into the said island.

A duty of 2d. per chaldron was also laid upon all coals imported into the said island, to be reckoned according to the coquet at the port of exportation.

A duty, after the rate of 10s. per cent. *ad valorem*, was laid upon all foreign goods; wines, spirits, and salt excepted: and 5s. upon other goods, imported from Great Britain or Ireland, (except licensed goods and salt for the fisheries, of above the value of 5l.) into the said island.

A duty of 3d. per quarter was laid upon all corn and grain; and 1d. per hundred-weight upon all meal and flour imported into, or exported from the said island.

A duty of 6d. per head was likewise laid upon all horses and black cattle imported into, or exported from the said island.—The said rates, duties, and impositions, were directed to be applied, from time to time, towards amending, repairing, and supporting, the several harbours and sea-ports in the said island.

The following bounties were resolved to be allowed upon the importation of white-oak staves and heading, from the plantations in America, viz.

A bounty of 6l. for every 1,200 pipe staves, each staffe not being less than five feet six inches long, from four inches and a half, to six inches broad, and two inches thick at the thinnest edge, which should be imported from the 1st of January, 1772, to the 1st of January, 1775, and in the like proportion for any greater or less number.

Six pounds for every 1800 of hogshead staves; each staffe not being less than four feet six inches long, from four inches and a half, to six inches broad, and one inch and a half thick at the thinnest edge, which should be so imported.

Six pounds for every 2,400 barrel staves; each staffe being from three feet six inches, to three feet eight inches in length, from four to five inches broad, and one inch and a half thick at the thinnest edge, which should be imported as aforesaid.

Six pounds for every 3,600 pieces of pipe, hogshead, and barrel heading; each piece of pipe heading being two feet eight inches long; hogshead heading, two feet four inches; and barrel heading, two feet one inch long, at the least; and each such respective piece of heading from five to six inches broad, and two inches thick at the thinnest edge, which should be so imported.—Each hundred to contain six-score.

A bounty of four pounds was also granted for every 1,200 of such pipe staves, 1,800 hogshead staves, 2,400 barrel staves, and for every 3,600 pieces of heading as before described, which should be imported from the 1st of January, 1775, to the 1st of January, 1778: and 2l. for every such quantity of pipe, hogshead, and barrel staves, and pieces of heading, as before described, which should be imported from the 1st of January, 1778, to the 1st of January, 1781.—These bounties were ordered to be paid out of his Majesty's customs.

AN HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1770, to CHRISTMAS 1771.

<i>Countries.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
Africa, — — —	£. 97,486 19 3	712,538 7 4
Canaries, — — —	6,803 18 10	23,825 9 8
Denmark and Norway, — — —	83,711 6 4	152,340 0 5
East Country, — — —	195,357 0 2	95,961 19 11
East India, — — —	1,882,139 5 9	1,184,824 13 11
Flanders, — — —	142,138 2 6	861,777 16 7
France, — — —	51,645 8 11	146,128 3 2
Germany, — — —	765,774 2 0	1,316,492 1 4
Greenland, — — —	13,803 5 10	10 6 3
Holland, — — —	428,080 1 7	1,685,397 16 0
Ireland, — — —	1,380,737 14 11	1,983,818 17 6
Italy, — — —	947,138 12 8	782,582 15 7
Madeiras, — — —	2,067 18 2	11,213 17 9
Portugal, — — —	354,631 10 7	716,122 3 5
Russia, — — —	1,274,620 12 0	150,159 16 6
Spain, — — —	568,323 11 3	1,224,811 11 10
Streights, — — —	3,604 13 6	153,323 16 11
Sweden, — — —	157,851 10 1	64,180 0 1
Turkey, — — —	100,443 2 9	20,573 15 3
Venice, — — —	83,335 0 2	73,956 18 1
Alderney, — — —	95 13 8	1,125 12 9
Guernsey, — — —	38,103 7 6	34,541 0 1
Jersey, — — —	18,603 12 9	22,898 14 6
Canada, — — —	37,286 12 8	170,962 8 11
Carolina, — — —	420,311 14 8	409,169 9 4
Cape Breton, — — —	14 9 5	66,647 9 11
Florida, — — —	21,856 11 11	70,493 19 3
Georgia, — — —	63,810 10 9	5,822 1 8
Hudson's Bay, — — —	9,225 18 0	1,420,119 1 1
New England, — — —	150,381 17 2	89,394 1 7
Newfoundland, — — —	49,424 18 8	
New Providence, — — —	7,837 3 3	
New York, — — —	95,875 8 11	653,621 7 6
Nova Scotia, — — —	3,451 14 3	51,581 12 8
Pennsylvania, — — —	31,615 19 9	728,744 19 10
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	577,848 16 6	920,326 3 8
Antigua, — — —	180,923 3 0	118,152 10 11
Barbadoes, — — —	163,053 1 4	120,011 0 3
Bermudas, — — —	836 8 3	8,645 15 9
Dominica, — — —	170,623 19 3	55,612 2 3
Grenades, — — —	361,839 10 7	138,431 6 6
Jamaica, — — —	1,261,675 7 9	494,888 0 10
Montserrat, — — —	63,034 4 8	15,642 0 6
Nevis, — — —	67,291 3 2	19,751 7 1
St. Croix, — — —	4,685 16 2	
St. Eustatia, — — —	1,436 2 11	
St. Kitts, — — —	268,276 16 8	95,442 17 10
St. Vincent, — — —	123,919 4 5	35,200 1 11
Tobago, — — —	7,091 2 7	28,610 14 11
Tortola, — — —	41,466 4 1	20,969 5 0
St. Thomas, — — —	447 7 1	
Spanish West Indies Hudson's Bay, — — —	39,988 0 9	4,301 0 2
Totals,	12,822,025 19 9	17,161,146 14 2
Exports exceed the Imports,	4,339,120 14 5	

A. D.

1771 Extract from the general bill of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 11, 1770, to December 10, 1771.

Christened, Males,	8,839	Buried, Males,	10,921
Females,	8,233	Females,	10,859
	17,072		21,780

The births, deaths, and marriages, for this year, in the following cities, &c. were as follow:

Paris,—births, 20,685; deaths, 18,941; marriages, 4,452; foundlings, 7,156.

Amsterdam,—baptisms in the several reformed churches, 4,707; deaths, 7,983.

Rotterdam,—deaths, 1,702.

Copenhagen,—births, 2,657; deaths, 3,144.

Manchester and Salford,—christened, 1,169; burials, 993; marriages, 423.

1772 The spirit of resistance continued to animate the American colonies.—In the month of June, in this year, one of the King's armed schooners, stationed at Providence, Rhode Island, to prevent smuggling, was seized and burned by the people of that colony: and in October following, the town meeting of Boston remonstrated to the governor, in terms of the greatest asperity, against the settling fixed salaries on the judges of the superior court of judicature, in New England; and sent circular letters, of a very inflammatory nature, to the other colonies on the occasion.

His Majesty had particularly recommended the affairs of the East India Company to the attention of Parliament, in his speech from the throne, at the opening of the session; nevertheless, it was so late as the 30th of March before this important business was taken up in the House of Commons. The deputy chairman of the East India Company then moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the Company's servants and concerns in India.—This bill was framed with a view to restrain the governor and council from all manner of trade, and to make a total alteration in the courts of judicature, and in the mode of administering justice in Bengal, as well as to enlarge the Company's powers with respect to its servants, and to lay additional restrictions upon them.

Though this bill was totally laid aside at the second reading, it produced very long and animated debates; and, in the course of them, it appeared very evident, that the conduct and affairs of the Company, as well as the transactions of its servants, demanded a very strict enquiry, and wanted much regulation: nor were there wanting those who suggested, on the occasion, that, from the apparent insufficiency of the Company for such an important task, government should take the whole of their territorial dominions under its own immediate jurisdiction. A bill therefore was brought, which passed into an act for the appointment of a select committee of 31 members, to enquire into the nature and state of the East India Company, and of their affairs in the East Indies: and as the subject of their inquiry was so various, as well as of such great extent, they were obliged to apply for leave to continue their sittings during the summer season.

The precarious situation of affairs in India,—the late distresses of the natives,—the depopulation of the country,—the oppressive and arbitrary conduct of the Company's servants,—the great decrease of the net revenues of Bengal, from various mismanagements, as well as enormous and unnecessary expences, and the immense consequence to this nation of preserving and well governing our possessions in India, were the considerations that induced Parliament to adopt this regulating law.

A. D.

1772 The great encouragement given at this time to the breed of horses, seems to have checked that of sheep and black cattle; and, consequently raised the price of butcher's-meat: as it appears, from the following table, that the increase of cattle, &c. was by no means proportionate to the augmenting population of the metropolis.

A TABLE, shewing the number of sheep and black cattle sold at Smithfield, for 40 years:—

<i>From Michaelmas</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Average.</i>	<i>Black Cattle.</i>	<i>Average.</i>
1730 to 1731	480,010		8,304	
1732	537,250		87,571	
1733	588,310		95,301	
1734	597,920		94,473	
1735	636,740	568,060	102,628	93,653
1736	617,720		100,602	
1737	637,190		100,686	
1738	615,000		96,762	
1739	598,000		96,404	
1740	527,420	599,466	93,285	97,548
1741	555,480		85,245	
1742	518,700		86,913	
1743	479,030		85,682	
1744	513,320		87,441	
1745	589,140	531,134	84,179	85,892
1746	648,350		83,149	
1747	646,930		81,988	
1748	634,750		76,060	
1749	666,900		83,357	
1750	680,650	655,516	79,836	80,878
1751	673,650		79,983	
1752	688,970		81,847	
1753	686,810		83,677	
1754	669,000		77,605	
1755	684,570	610,618	81,106	80,843
1756	653,220		83,266	
1757	594,260		89,776	
1758	571,660		90,559	
1759	610,870		96,082	
1760	653,740	616,750	98,813	91,699
1761	718,060	$\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a year.	90,232	$\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a year.
1762	842,030	a year and $\frac{1}{4}$ th	121,175	a year and $\frac{1}{4}$ th.
1763	964,190		90,991	
1764	581,440		80,299	
1765	547,300	730,608	84,702	93,480
1766	587,520		78,387	
1767	588,730		81,035	
1768	655,920		84,855	
1769	665,240		85,862	
1770	666,650	632,812	90,979	84,244

The

A. D.

1772

The inefficacy of the temporary corn-bills which had been passed in every session for some years back, had occasioned the forming a committee in the last session, for examining into and considering the whole state of the corn, and of the corn laws, and for framing such regulations thereon, as might be the basis of a comprehensive and permanent law, which should apply to all possible cases, with respect to exportation, importation, prices, and bounties, and thereby supersede the necessity of temporary and imperfect regulations. Several resolutions were then approved of and passed upon this subject, and the lateness of the season only prevented its being carried further. A bill, therefore, was brought in upon the same principles, and passed through the House of Commons; but being returned, with some alterations, by the Lords, the Commons, considering it as a money bill, and therefore not to be altered by the other House, threw it out with extraordinary marks of contempt.

From the various articles of information which the discussion of the corn business produced at this time, we have selected the following tables.

Prices of grain per quarter at Bear-Key and Mark-Lane, for 15 successive years:—

YEARS.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.	OATS.
<i>Jan.</i>	<i>s. s.</i>	<i>s. s.</i>	<i>s. s. d.</i>
1742	26 to 29	15 to 20	12 to 15
1743	20 — 23	15 — 20	13 — 16
1744	19 — 21	11 — 13	9 — 12
1745	18 — 20	12 — 15	12 — 16
1746	17 — 24	10 — 13	12 — 14
1747	27 — 30	8 — 12	7 — 11
1748	26 — 28	13 — 14	9 — 12
1749	27 — 32	17 — 18	14 — 16
1750	24 — 27	14 — 17	12 — 13
1751	24 — 27	14 — 17	12 — 13
1752	20 — 25	10 — 13	9 — 11
1753	29 — 35	17 — 18	10 — 12
1754	27 — 33	17 — 19	12 — 13
1755	24 — 26	12 — 14	10 — 13
1756	22 — 26	14 — 15	12 — 13 6

A table of the corn exported from England during five years, distinguishing the species thereof, with the bounties payable thereon, laid before Parliament.

GROSS AMOUNT OF CORN EXPORTED.						EXPORTED FOR BOUNTY.	
Years.	Barley.	Malt.	Oatmeal.	Rye.	Wheat.	Quantity.	Bounty.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	£.
1744	20,090	219,862	1,657	74,169	231,984	Barley,	449,289 — 56,159
1745	95,878	219,354	9,770	83,966	324,839	Malt,	1,426,264 — 184,195
1746	158,719	282,024	20,203	45,782	130,646	Oatmeal,	37,366 — 4,668
1747	103,140	361,280	2,122	92,718	266,906	Rye,	399,883 — 69,977
1748	73,857	349,363	3,768	103,891	543,387	Wheat,	1,455,642 — 363,908
Totals	451,684	1,431,883	37,520	400,526	1,497,762	Totals,	3,768,444 — 678,907

The difference between the quantity of corn exported, and of corn exported for bounty, is occasioned by some exported to Alderney, Guernsey, Jersey, &c. not entitled to bounty.

A. D.

1772 These great exports were principally from the ports of London, Ipswich, Yarmouth, Lynn Regis, Hull, Bristol, Southampton, Cowes, Chichester, Shoreham, and those of Wales, the chief countries exported to were, Holland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, and the Mediterranean: but France and Flanders, on account of the war, had not any transmitted, except a certain supply sent to fill the French magazines, previous to the opening the last campaign of the existing war, which was the cause of that precipitate and ill-considered treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The total exports of the above period of five years, being 3,768,444 quarters of different species of corn, may be supposed to have produced, £.

At 35s. per quarter,	—	—	6,594,777
At 40s. —————	—	—	7,536,888
At 45s. —————	—	—	8,478,999
At 50s. —————	—	—	9,421,110

Or the medium of those sums, being 8,007,948l.; in either case it is an immense sum to flow immediately from the produce of the earth, and the labour of the people, enriching our merchants, and increasing an invaluable brood of seamen.

In the course of this year, 4,872 ships were cleared at the Custom-house, Newcastle, of which 4,480 were coasters, and 392 for foreign parts.

From December 5, 1771, to December 5, 1772, 6,680 vessels passed the Sound, which were as follows:

Dutch,	—	2,145	Hamburghers,	—	32
English,	—	1,894	Russian,	—	28
Danish,	—	973	From Rostock,	—	21
Swedes,	—	805	Imperial,	—	13
Prussians,	—	326	French,	—	13
Dantzickers,	—	211	Courlanders	—	7
Bremeners,	—	170	Spanish,	—	2
Lubeckers,	—	38	Portuguese,	—	2

The total number of which amounted to 6,680 vessels.

The following bills, among many others, received the royal assent this year.

To continue and amend an act passed in the last session, to prohibit the exportation of corn, &c.

To continue, for a further time, the act for the importation of salted provisions, &c. from Ireland and the American colonies.

To discontinue the inland duty of 1s. per pound on Singlo and black teas, and for allowing a drawback on teas exported to Ireland and the Plantations.

For making a navigable canal from the river Dee, near Chester, to Nantwich.

For better preserving his Majesty's dock yards, ships, stores and ammunition.

To amend an act for maintaining and enlarging the harbour of Ramsgate and haven of Shoreham.

For embanking and preserving certain fen and low grounds in Huntingdonshire.

For deepening and preserving the harbour of Ayr in Scotland.

For the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts in Scotland.

For allowing the importation of wheat, wheat flour, rye and rye meal, into this kingdom, for a limited time.

For

A. D.

1772 For allowing the free importation of rice into this kingdom, from any of his Majesty's colonies in America.

For remedying the evils occasioned by the laws now in being against engrossers, forestallers and regrators.

For further encouraging the herring fishery on the coasts of the Isle of Man.

For more effectually preventing frauds in the revenue of excise, with respect to tea, soap, low wines and spirits.

To prevent frauds and abuses relating to the trade carrying on between Great Britain and Ireland.

For more effectually preventing fraud in the stamp duties, upon vellum, parchment, paper and cards.

To continue and amend an act to prevent frauds committed by bankrupts.

For allowing a drawback on the exportation of tea to Ireland and his Majesty's colonies in America.

For rendering the payment of the creditors of insolvent debtors more equal and expeditious in Scotland.

For allowing the free importation of wheat, Indian corn, &c. for a limited time.

For allowing the free importation of wheat, barley, &c. from Africa or any part of Europe, for a limited time.

For the discontinuance of the duties on hog's lard and grease, and for the free importation of hams, bacon, and all sorts of salt provisions from any part of Europe for a limited time.

To allow the further importation of rice from America.

To restrain the East India Company from appointing supervisors for a limited time.

For making a branch of the river Trent navigable.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 25,000 seamen, including 6,664 marines, —	1,300,000	0	0
For 17,547 land-forces, including 1,522 invalids, —	629,491	12	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the plantations and Africa, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c. — — —	388,953	12	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments of five battalions and four companies of foot, &c. —	4,723	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c. — —	11,322	7	3
For pensions to the widows of certain reduced officers, —	644	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces and marines, &c. — — — —	115,765	16	0
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c. — —	1,281	0	6
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c. —	124,813	12	6
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c. —	215,883	17	4
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1771, — — — —	32,498	6	3
For the ordinary of the navy, including half pay to sea and marine officers, — — — —	394,725	17	6
Towards building and repairing ships, &c. and other extra works, —	375,939	0	0

Carried forward, 3,596,042 18 6 $\frac{3}{4}$

A. D.

1772

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,		3,596,042	18	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	—		5,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	—	—	3,186	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	—	—	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	—	—	5,650	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	—	—	6,336	0	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
On account of general surveys in North America,	—		1,885	4	0
To the trustees of the British Museum,	—		2,000	0	0
To enable his Majesty to purchase, for the use of the public, a collection of Etruscan, Grecian, and Roman antiquities, brought from Italy by Sir William Hamilton, Knight of the Bath, to be vested in the Trustees of the British Museum,	—		8,410	0	0
To enable the trustees of the British Museum to provide a repository for the said collection,	—		840	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	—		1,800,000	0	0
To be employed in repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	—		13,000	0	0
For more effectually repairing the fort of Cape Coast Castle in Africa,			2,400	0	0
To be applied towards encouraging discoveries towards the South Pole,			4,000	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	—		274,432	4	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,			6,998	14	5
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum issued thereout to make good certain deficiencies, &c.	—		42,445	5	5
To the Levant Company, to be applied in assisting the said Company in carrying on their trade,	—		5,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,			6,580	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum, paid to certain persons in North Britain, as a compensation of certain losses sustained, and expences incurred by them, for preventing the spreading of the infectious distemper amongst the horned cattle,	—		294	3	11
To enable his Majesty to make good the several sums payable to the persons who have subscribed the capital stock of 3 per cent. annuities, to be discharged, &c.	—		1,350,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of 1771,			39,456	0	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
To be paid to Charles Irving, for the discovery of an easy and practicable method of making sea water fresh and wholesome,	—		5,000	0	0
To enable his Majesty to reward Daniel Peter Layard, Doctor of Physic, for his advice towards preventing the disorder among the horned cattle,	—		500	0	0
To be paid as a compensation to Edward Hill, for the loss he will sustain by discontinuing the use of pestles in making gunpowder, &c.			1,500	0	0
Total,			7,186,253	3	1

The

A. D.

1772

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, — — —	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 3s. — — —	1,500,000	0	0
Certain surplusses of the sinking fund, — — —	136,416	0	8½
Ditto, — — — — —	55,192	6	11¼
By Exchequer bills, — — —	1,800,000	0	0
By agreement with the East India Company, — — —	400,000	0	0
Certain excesses of the sinking fund, — — —	805,398	13	2
By certain savings, &c. — — —	138,090	5	10
Ditto — — — — —	36,772	10	0
Ditto, — — — — —	1,863	13	10
Ditto, — — — — —	40,000	0	0
By a lottery, — — — — —	150,000	0	0
From the sinking fund, — — —	1,856,723	1	2
Certain monies reserved for the direction of Parliament, — — —	20,000	0	0
The surplusses of certain deductions, &c. — — —	21,710	0	0
A certain sum in the Exchequer for the disposition of Parliament, — — —	10,426	9	3
Total of ways and means provided, &c. — — —	7,722,593	0	11¼
Ditto of supplies granted, &c. — — —	7,186,253	3	0
Excess of provisions, — — —	536,339	17	11¼

There were no extra duties or alteration of duties imposed or made during this year.

A general statement of the public debts at the receipt of the Exchequer, standing out January 5, 1772, with the annual interest, &c.

	Principal Debt.			Annual Interest, &c.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
* Exchequer, — — —	2,034,364	12	9½	153,066	4	8
East India Company, — — —	4,200,000	0	0	127,687	10	0
Bank of England, — — —	94,137,945	1	5¼	3,088,616	5	7
By remaining annuities of one life each, granted on the lotteries of 1745 and 1746.—						
Ditto on the 3 per cent. annuities of 1757 and 1761; as also on the annuities of 1 per cent. for 98 years to the subscribers to the loan of 12,000,000l. granted for the service of the year 1762, together with the charges of management to the Bank of England, — — —				327,515	0	3
South Sea Company, — — —	27,125,309	13	11½	829,507	8	2
Total, — — —	127,497,619	8	2¼	4,526,392	8	8

* The land taxes and duties on malt being annual grants, are not charged in this account, nor the 1,000,000l. charged on the deduction of 6d. per pound on pensions, nor the 1,800,000l. borrowed in 1771, charged on the supplies in 1772.

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1772

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1771, to CHRISTMAS 1772.

Countries.			Imports.			Exports.		
Africa,	—	—	92,338	12	0	866,394	11	3
Canaries,	—	—	12,773	10	7	32,539	7	3
Denmark and Norway,	—	—	85,521	17	2	161,972	14	3
East Country,	—	—	209,189	14	5	103,661	2	5
East India,	—	—	2,473,192	8	2	941,361	4	5
Flanders,	—	—	99,473	6	9	793,454	12	5
France,	—	—	54,948	11	5	290,989	16	1
Germany,	—	—	701,813	5	1	1,354,181	6	6
Greenland,	—	—	23,449	16	5	36	15	4
Holland,	—	—	324,901	8	8	1,997,815	1	4
Ireland,	—	—	1,242,305	18	5	1,963,787	4	0
Italy,	—	—	858,599	8	10	831,514	1	8
Madeiras,	—	—	3,330	3	8	12,107	2	2
Portugal,	—	—	347,373	11	2	635,114	4	2
Russia,	—	—	1,008,948	11	5	139,470	15	5
Spain,	—	—	510,637	9	1	805,038	0	1
Streights,	—	—	13,902	15	1	141,729	8	7
Sweden,	—	—	187,826	15	2	54,698	12	9
Turkey,	—	—	154,052	8	3	96,823	4	4
Venice,	—	—	64,605	8	0	80,849	17	0
Alderney,	—	—	79	13	0	1,470	18	1
Guernsey,	—	—	31,845	1	7	31,564	10	3
Jersey,	—	—	17,627	3	5	31,099	12	10
Canada,	—	—	47,995	4	4	203,779	5	6
Carolina,	—	—	425,923	1	1	449,610	2	2
Cape Breton,	—	—	255	8	7	121	6	9
Florida,	—	—	15,722	17	6	40,458	2	9
Georgia,	—	—	66,083	18	9	92,406	4	4
Hudson's Bay,	—	—	8,005	17	1	6,381	2	9
New England,	—	—	126,265	7	6	824,830	8	9
Newfoundland,	—	—	67,625	2	11	107,822	14	0
New Providence,	—	—	5,817	18	9	1,564	0	9
New York,	—	—	82,707	8	6	343,970	19	9
Nova Scotia,	—	—	4,663	12	3	34,688	3	3
Pennsylvania,	—	—	29,133	12	3	507,909	14	0
Virginia and Maryland,	—	—	528,404	10	6	793,910	13	2
Antigua,	—	—	166,351	12	4	116,074	10	11
Barbadoes,	—	—	210,842	12	6	138,841	10	7
Bermudas,	—	—	525	2	10	11,798	14	6
Dominica,	—	—	215,667	7	1	60,526	14	2
Grenada,	—	—	492,974	5	3	191,774	18	9
Jamaica,	—	—	1,483,818	19	8	592,733	5	1
Montserrat,	—	—	82,873	18	2	23,334	7	8
Nevis,	—	—	82,331	17	9	18,277	15	1
St. Croix,	—	—	24,947	18	0			
St. Kitts,	—	—	302,952	2	0	118,914	4	9
St. Eustatia,	—	—	8,152	5	0			
St. Vincent,	—	—	155,182	18	0	38,361	18	10
Tobago,	—	—	19,718	19	8	36,797	4	10
Tortola,	—	—	58,111	9	5	30,586	0	11
Honduras Bay,	—	—	51,079	13	10	1,535	14	10
Musquito Shore,	—	—	15,580	3	0	4,728	12	11
Totals,			13,298,452	2	3	16,159,412	14	4
Exports exceed the Imports,			2,860,960	12	1			

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1772 A general account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 10, 1771, to December 15, 1772.

CHRISTENED.

Males,	9,172
Females,	8,744
Total,	17,916

BURIED.

Males,	13,185
Females,	12,868
Total,	26,053

At Paris,—births, 18,713; deaths, 20,374; marriages, 4,611; foundlings received in the hospitals, 7676.

At Amsterdam,—deaths, 10,609; baptisms in the several reformed churches, 4,637; marriages, 2,037.

At Copenhagen,—births, 2,604; deaths, 4,200; marriages, 745.

At Whitby,—deaths, 313; baptisms, 229; marriages, 59.

1773 In the speech from the Throne at the meeting of Parliament on the 26th of November, of the last year, it was observed, that the private convenience of the Members would have been consulted by allowing a longer recess from business, if some very important public services had not required the immediate attention of Parliament. It then shewed how much the commerce and revenues of the nation, as well as the private rights and interests of numerous individuals were interested in the maintenance of the credit and prosperity of the East India Company; and that upon information of the difficulties in which that company appeared to be involved, it was determined to give them an early opportunity of informing themselves fully of the true state of their affairs, and of making such provisions for the common benefit and security of the various interests concerned, as should be found best adapted to the exigencies of the case.

A motion was, therefore, made in the House of Commons, that, for the better taking into consideration the affairs of the company, a committee of secrecy, consisting of thirteen persons, to be chosen by ballot, should be appointed for that purpose; which passed, after some opposition, without a division.

In little more than a week after its appointment, the president of this committee presented a report on the affairs of the East India Company, which stated, that though the company were much distressed in money matters, they were, notwithstanding, preparing to send out an expensive commission of supervision to India, which would still add to that distress, and therefore recommended that a bill should be brought in to restrain them, for a limited time, from sending out any such commission. This recommendation was immediately adopted, and, after debates of no common length and violence, in both Houses, received the royal assent.

In the course of these discussions it appeared, that since the year 1765, the company's expences had increased from 700,000*l.* to the enormous sum of 1,700,000*l.* annually. It also appeared, that government had received by the net duties, the indemnity upon tea and the stipulated 400,000*l.* little less than two millions annually from the company. That the latter had lost by the indemnity agreement, from its first commencement, at least one million; of which 700,000*l.* went to government, and the remainder to the purchasers. It was also shewn, that government had profited, during the last five years, to the amount of 3,395,000*l.* viz. by the produce of the annual stipulated payment 2,200,000*l.* and by the encrease of the revenue, compared on a medium with the five preceding years, 1,195,000*l.* That the whole of the company's receipts of dividend, during the same period, scarcely amounted to 900,000*l.*

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1773 more than six per cent. upon its capital, which was the lowest trading dividend that had ever been made during the most expensive and dangerous wars. In short, it appeared upon the whole, that the company's mercantile profits during the above period, amounted on an average to 464,000*l.* annually, which would have afforded a dividend of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ; so that while government profited to the great amount we have mentioned, the company and proprietary, instead of receiving any benefit, lost considerably of the dividend, which the profits on their trade alone would have afforded. Arguments against the bill were founded upon this statement, on the right of the company to appoint their own servants, and the ruinous consequences which might arise from delay, in checking the misconduct, disobedience, and rapacity of their servants in the presidencies abroad, which had unfortunately continued, without interruption, from the fatal loss of the *Aurora*, in which the three gentlemen, who were sent out in the year 1769, as superiors to India, were too justly believed to have perished. But it was, however, insisted, on the other side, that the evils in India were of such a magnitude, that nothing less than the legislature could reform them, and that its supreme controuling power could never be applied with greater propriety, or the prospect of greater advantage than in the present instance, when the welfare and security of many millions, and the preservation of great countries and revenues depended upon its exertion.

In consequence of a previous petition from the East India Company for a loan, the minister, on the 9th of March, moved, as a matter of political expediency, but not as a claim of right, " That the affairs of the East India Company being in such a state as to require parliamentary assistance, a supply of 1,400,000*l.* be granted to the company ; provided, at the same time, that due care be taken that such necessary regulations should be adopted, as to prevent the company's experiencing similar exigencies for the future.

March 23.—The following resolutions were moved and carried in the House of Commons: " That supposing the public should advance a loan to the East India Company, the company's dividend should be restrained to six per cent. until the re-payment of the sum advanced ; and that the company be allowed to divide no more than seven per cent. until their bond debt is reduced to 1,500,000*l.*"

April 5.—It was also moved and carried,—" That it is the opinion of this House, that it will be more beneficial to the public and the East India Company, to let the territorial acquisitions remain in the possession of the company for a limited time, not exceeding the term of six years, to commence from the agreement between the public and the company. That no participation of profits shall take place between the public and the company, until after the repayment of 1,400,000*l.* advanced to the company, and the reduction of the company's bond debt to 1,500,000*l.* And that after the payment of the loan advanced to the company, and the reduction of their bond debt to the sum specified, three-fourths of the net surplus profits of the company at home above the sum of eight per cent. upon their capital stock shall be paid into the Exchequer, for the use of the public, and the remaining one-fourth shall be set apart, either for further reducing the company's bond debt, or for composing a fund for the discharge of any contingent exigencies the company may labour under."

After the House of Commons had, for two months, continually occupied itself with the affairs of this company ; resolutions, to the following effect, were moved and made the foundation of a bill, " For establishing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the East India Company, as well in India as in Europe."

First, " That the Court of Directors should, in future, be elected for four years, six members annually ; but none to hold their seats longer than four years.

Secondly,

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Secondly, " That no person should vote at the election of the directors who had not possessed their stock twelve months.

Thirdly, " That the qualification stock should, instead of 500l. be 1000l.

Fourthly, " That the Mayor's Court of Calcutta should, for the future, be confined to small mercantile causes, to which only its jurisdiction extended before the territorial acquisition.

Fifthly, " That in lieu of this court, thus taken away, a new one be established, consisting of a chief justice and three puisne judges.

Sixthly, " That these judges be appointed by the crown.

Seventhly, " That a superiority be given to the presidency of Bengal over the other presidencies in India.

After several weeks continual agitation, this bill, which had naturally attracted the attention of all orders of people, was passed by great majorities in both houses, and from the moment it received the royal assent, the East India Company may be considered as, in a great measure, if not wholly, in the hands of the Ministers of the Crown.

Though the colonies had engaged in resolutions not to import any tea from Great Britain, yet means had been found to import it, though in smaller quantities than heretofore; which decrease of importation was also owing, in some measure, to the lower price of such as were brought from other countries. This diminution in the export of the teas, was very disadvantageous to the East India Company; and in order to make them some compensation, they were permitted by Parliament to export it to America free of any duty payable by the company.

In consequence of this privilege, the company freighted several ships with tea for North America, and appointed agents to dispose of it in the several colonies; but such was the then determination there, to counteract the designs of the British ministry, that when three ships laden with tea entered the harbour of Boston, the impossibility of landing it was so evident, that the captains of the vessels would willingly have carried it back to England, could they have obtained a formal permission from those who were possessed of official power to grant it.

In the mean time the inhabitants, who were convinced that the tea would, by some means or other, be landed, if the ships were suffered to remain in the harbour, resolved to take such a mode of prevention, as would effectually check the design of making any future attempts of a similar nature.

They therefore gave notice to the consignees, and the captains, that they would not permit them to bring their teas ashore, and insisted on the departure of the vessels with their cargoes; which being refused by the governor and the officers of the custom-house, a number of disguised persons boarded the ships and threw the whole cargoes into the sea.

The same conduct was pursued towards vessels laden with tea in other parts of America. At Philadelphia the pilots were forbidden to conduct them up the river Delawar; and, at New York, though some chests were landed under the protection of a man of war, the governor was under the necessity of delivering them into custody, to preserve the public peace.

At this time it appears, that the value of the shipping built in the colonies, amounted to 116,500l. annually; and that the consumption of teas, before the importation duties were questioned, to 600,000l.

It appears by an authentic article published in the Belfast News Letter, dated the 6th of April in this year, that the number of ships and their tonnage, which sailed with passengers from

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1773 from the North of Ireland to North America, in the two preceding years, were as follows:

<i>Years.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>		<i>Tons.</i>
In 1771	—	32	—	8,900
1772	—	30	—	8,450
		—		—
	Total,	62		17,350
		—		—

It is supposed, on a moderate computation, that the number of passengers were equal to the tons. The greatest part of these emigrants paid their passage, which at 3l. 10s. each, amounted to 60,725l. most of them people employed in the linen manufacture, or farmers, &c.

From accounts published at this time, it appears that the importation of coals into London, in the year 1772, amounted to 720,000 chaldrons, which was the greatest that had been known.

In this year the importation of sugars from the West Indies to Bristol, amounted to 20,000 hogsheds, which was 5,000 more than had ever been introduced into that port, in any one preceding year.

On the 2d of June, the Honourable Captain Phipps, now Lord Mulgrave, and Captain Lutwiche, in the Race Horse and Carcase frigates, sailed from the Nore on a voyage of discovery towards the North Pole. Mr. Lyons was appointed, by the Board of Longitude, to accompany them, to make observations in astronomy, natural history and philosophy.

By an account laid before the House of Commons of the number of horses exported from England, from January 3, 1750, to January 5, 1772, the numbers appeared to be,

		<i>Horses.</i>
During fourteen years peace,	—	21,348
During eight years war,	—	7,783
		—
In all,		29,131
		—

The total number of proprietors of East India stock, with their qualifications, as they stood in the company's books, the 4th of March in this year, were as follows:

	<i>Proprietors.</i>	<i>Stock.</i>
		£. s. d.
English, possessing 1000l. stock, and upwards,	487	1,018,398 19 11
Foreign, possessing 1000l. stock, and upwards,	325	890,940 17 0
	—	—
Total, of 1000l. stock,	812	Tot. stock, 1,909,339 16 11
	—	—
	<i>Proprietors.</i>	<i>Stock.</i>
		£. s. d.
English, possessing 500l. stock and upwards,		
not amounting to 1000l.	1,246	634,464 1 8
Foreign, possessing 500l. stock, &c.	95	50,226 0 0
	—	—
Total, of 500l. stock,	1,341	Tot. stock, 684,690 1 8
	—	—

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1773 In the London Gazette of July 31, the Governor, Deputy Governor, and Directors of the Bank, gave notice, that any quantity of guineas, half guineas, and quarter guineas, (cut or defaced agreeable to the act) not less than fifty guineas in a parcel, would be taken in there on Monday, August 2, and every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, till further notice; at the rate of 3l. 17s. 10½d. per ounce.

In the course of this year, 4,106 ships cleared at the Custom-house, Newcastle, of which 3,720 were coasters, and 386 for foreign parts.

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the course of this year:

To encourage the subjects of foreign states to lend money upon estates in the West Indies.

For naturalizing the children of foreign Protestants, subjects of Great Britain.

To enable certain persons to work a pebble mill at Tunbridge in Kent.

For draining and improving the fens in the parishes of Upwell, Outwell, Denver, and Weley, lying on the south side of Popham's Eau in the Isle of Ely.

For draining the fens between Mildenhall River, South; Plant Lond and Brandon River, North; bounded on the West by the Ouse, and the East by Winder Lond Marwell Brook, in the Isle of Ely.

To prevent abuses in the sale of shares of ships, to foreigners, British built.

For better regulating ships loaded with coals in the ports of Sunderland and Newcastle.

For the better regulation and government of pilots, conducting ships and vessels out of the port of King's Lynn, in the county of Norfolk.

For making and extending the navigation of the river Bure, from Coltishall to Aylsham Bridge, in the county of Norfolk.

For establishing a plate-glass manufactory.

To allow a drawback of the duties of the customs on the exportation of teas to any of his Majesty's colonies or plantations in America.

To regulate the importation and exportation of corn.

To enlarge the powers of two acts for making a navigable canal from the river of Forth, at or near the mouth of the river Carron, to the river Clyde in Scotland.

To enable the Earl of Thanet to make a navigable canal from the spring near Skipton in Yorkshire, to communicate with the Leeds and Liverpool canal.

For appointing wardens and assay masters, for assaying wrought plate in the towns of Birmingham and Sheffield.

For establishing certain rules and orders for the future management of the affairs of the East India Company, as well in India as in Europe.

To prevent paper bills of credit hereafter to be issued in any of his Majesty's colonies or plantations in America, from being declared to be a legal payment.

For altering the punishment of persons fraudulently marking of plate.

To prevent the counterfeiting or diminishing the gold coin of the kingdom.

To regulate the wages or prices of journeymen weavers in Spitalfields, or within five miles of London.

For the better cultivating common arable fields, commons and wastes.

To prevent the counterfeiting of bank notes or bills, and to prevent obtaining false credit by the imitation of bank notes or bills.

"By this act, paper makers, not authorised by the Bank, who shall make any paper with the words BANK OF ENGLAND, BANK POST BILL, or any words expressing the *sum* or *amount*:

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1772 *amount*, in white letters in a black ground, or having any plate so engraved in their custody, shall be committed to the county gaol and suffer imprisonment therein, for any term not exceeding six months. The same punishment is likewise to be inflicted upon all persons who shall utter notes with any such marks upon them."

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1773.

	£.	s.	d.
For 20,000 seamen, including 4,354 marines, &c. —	1,040,000	0	0
For 17,070 land forces, including 1,522 invalids, &c. —	616,895	1	10
For maintaining garrisons, &c. —	396,935	5	10 ¹ / ₄
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishment of certain troops, &c. —	5,503	9	5
For the pay of the general and staff officers, &c. —	11,473	18	6 ¹ / ₂
For the out-pensioners of Chelsea, &c. —	122,982	3	9
For the office of ordnance for the land service —	218,460	13	10
For ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1772, —	17,954	4	7
For the ordinary of the navy, —	424,019	0	9
Towards building and repairs of ships, &c. —	421,554	0	0
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia, —	5,146	10	5
Ditto of Georgia, —	3,086	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, —	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, —	7,274	13	6
Ditto of Senegambia, —	6,336	0	9 ¹ / ₂
On account of general surveys in North America, —	1,885	4	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces, &c. —	111,127	5	10
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse guards, &c. —	1,148	10	0
For the pensions payable to widows of certain reduced officers, —	628	0	0
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, —	6,998	10	9
To the Levant Company, to assist them in carrying on their trade, —	5,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same for certain purposes, &c. —	48,245	11	6
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, —	1,800,000	0	0
For the maintenance of Westminster bridge, —	2,000	0	0
For the extraordinaries of the army, &c. —	249,708	12	1 ¹ / ₄
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1772, —	21,085	1	7
For repairing, &c. the British forts on the coast of Africa, —	13,000	0	0
To be applied for the purpose of relieving the East India Company, and for securing to the creditors of the said company, a more speedy satisfaction of their demands, —	1,400,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum which has been issued, by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of addresses of Parliament, —	6,200	0	0
To John Harrison, as a further reward for his invention of a time keeper, for ascertaining the longitude at sea, —	8,750	0	0

Carried over, 6,978,347 19 0³/₈

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	6,978,347	19	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
To enable his Majesty to repay Messrs. Hodson, Gordon and Debonair, the like sum which has been overpaid by them to the commissioners of excise, &c.	4,363	0	0
To be advanced to Doctor Richard Williams, &c. for inventing a fast green and yellow dye on cotton yarns, &c.	2,000	0	0
Total of supplies,	6,984,721	19	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

£. s. d.

WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

Duty on malt, &c.	750,000	0	0
Land tax, at 3s.	1,500,000	0	0
By certain surplusses remaining in the Exchequer,	350,193	7	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Exchequer bills,	1,400,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	2,349,806	12	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
By loans or Exchequer bills, &c.	1,000,000	0	0
From the produce of the duties reserved for the disposition of Parliament,	10,000	0	0
From the East India Company,	169,398	18	2
By certain balances remaining in the Exchequer, &c.	9,961	11	8
Total Ways and Means,	7,539,360	9	10
Total Supplies,	6,984,710	19	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Excess of Provisions,	554,649	10	9 $\frac{5}{8}$

The state of the national debt remains the same as in our last account of it.

☞ The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia of England, for one year, beginning the 25th of March, 1770, was ordered to be defrayed out of the monies arising by the land-tax granted for the service of the said year.

Additional duties and regulations of duties imposed and made in the course of this year.

May 17.—A duty of 1s. 6d. was laid on every chaldron of culm, Newcastle measure, exported to Lisbon in any foreign vessel.

An additional duty of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per square yard, and in that proportion for any greater or less quantity, was laid on all paper, printed, painted, or stained in foreign parts, imported into this kingdom.

July 14.—The duty of 11. 10s. payable for every negroe which should be imported into the island of Dominica, or exported from the island of Jamaica, ceased and determined; and in lieu thereof, a duty of 2s. 6d. sterling money was voted to be paid for every negroe which should be imported into the said island of Dominica, or exported from the said island of Jamaica.

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1773

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1772, to CHRISTMAS 1773.

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.
Africa, — — —	£. 68,424 19 9	£. 662,112 7 11
Canaries, — — —	10,635 11 9	43,889 10 1
Denmark and Norway, — — —	71,044 4 0	161,399 4 10
East Country, — — —	164,337 12 2	68,571 19 8
East India, — — —	1,933,096 18 5	845,707 16 6
Flanders, — — —	79,957 1 4	1,006,601 6 7
France, — — —	44,484 1 3	285,776 4 0
Germany, — — —	454,186 9 5	1,337,552 1 10
Greenland, — — —	17,644 14 10	28 10 4
Holland, — — —	411,642 6 0	1,873,860 14 5
Ireland, — — —	1,252,817 3 7	1,918,802 18 10
Isle of Man; — — —	4,563 4 8	18,336 4 4
Italy, — — —	480,349 6 0	848,729 0 1
Madeiras — — —	2,499 0 8	13,118 14 7
Portugal, — — —	349,214 13 4	522,379 10 1
Russia, — — —	850,112 18 5	196,229 1 3
Spain, — — —	462,342 12 6	839,072 7 6
Streights, — — —	714 9 0	63,098 6 9
Sweden, — — —	161,603 16 1	36,308 0 0
Turkey, — — —	163,538 17 9	118,475 6 0
Venice, — — —	104,003 10 7	98,371 4 6
Alderney, — — —	623 5 9	1,891 15 7
Guernsey, — — —	43,291 5 9	39,223 0 9
Jersey, — — —	11,881 4 4	20,665 1 0
Antigua, — — —	112,779 0 10	93,323 1 3
Barbadoes, — — —	168,682 6 1	148,817 9 3
Bermudas, — — —	509 10 0	10,051 18 9
Canada, — — —	42,394 11 2	316,867 19 6
Carolina, — — —	456,513 8 4	344,859 9 1
Cape Breton, — — —	16 6	984 6 4
Dominica, — — —	248,868 16 5	43,679 12 7
Florida, — — —	7,129 13 6	51,502 7 2
Georgia, — — —	85,391 1 8	62,932 19 8
Granades, — — —	445,041 0 9	102,761 1 6
Hudson's Bay, — — —	8,943 4 2	6,467 9 9
Jamaica, — — —	1,286,888 16 6	683,451 8 10
Montserrat, — — —	47,911 12 8	14,974 6 1
Nevis, — — —	39,299 7 6	9,181 14 8
New England, — — —	124,624 19 6	527,055 15 10
Newfoundland, — — —	68,087 11 9	77,744 1 4
New Providence, — — —	3,379 11 4	2,132 16 4
New York, — — —	76,246 12 0	289,214 19 7
Nova Scotia, — — —	1,719 9 3	27,032 18 4
Pennsylvania, — — —	36,652 8 9	426,448 17 3
St. Christopher's, — — —	150,512 5 5	62,607 19 10
St. Croix, — — —	6,706 8 5	1,248 3 6
St. Eustatia, — — —	5,730 19 4	
St. Thomas, — — —		271 14 3
St. Vincent, — — —	145,619 0 2	38,444 4 5
Tobago, — — —	20,453 19 2	30,049 2 0
Tortola, — — —	48,000 5 2	26,927 3 3
Virginia and Maryland, — — —	589,803 14 5	328,904 15 8
Spanish West Indies, — — —	35,941 5 7	15,114 18 11
Totals,	11,406,841 3 8	14,763,253 2 4
Exports exceed the Imports,	3,356,411 18 8	

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1773 By the calculations of the Abbè D'Expilly, published about this time in Paris, and presented by the author in person to the French King, it appears, that from the year 1691 to 1700, inclusive, France contained 35,127 parishes, in which, within the above period, by an exact and complete abstract, taken from the public registers, there were 7,679,083 births; 1,807,891 marriages, and 6,784,724 deaths. From 1754 to 1763, inclusively, being a like period of nine years, and in the same 35,127 parishes, there were 8,532,110 births; 1,893,472 marriages, and 6,564,694 deaths: and from 1754 to 1763, in the 42,105 parishes contained in the kingdom of France, in which those of Lorraine and Bar are comprized, 8,661,381 births; 4,663,822 being boys, and 3,997,560 girls;—1,922,163 marriages, and 6,664,161 deaths, 3,460,241 being men and boys, and 3,203,920 women and girls.

The number of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 15, 1772, to December 14, 1773, is as follows:

Christened, males	8,549	Buried, males	10,839
———— females	8,256	———— females	10,817
	16,805		21,656

At Paris, there were in this year,—births 18,847; deaths 18,518; marriages 4,810; foundlings received in the hospital 5,989.

At Newcastle and Gateshead, births 767; deaths 596.

1774 His Majesty's speech from the throne, on January 13, contained nothing very remarkable: its chief object was to recommend a particular attention to the state of the gold coin, which had suffered a very alarming degree of diminution, and to continue the endeavours of the last session towards restoring it to its natural state of value and credit. America was not even mentioned. But no sooner did advice arrive of the outrages committed on board the tea ships at Boston, than both Houses received a message from the King, in which they were informed, that in consequence of the unwarrantable practices carried on in North America, and particularly of the violent proceedings at the town and port of Boston, with a view of obstructing the commerce of this kingdom, and upon grounds and pretences immediately subversive of its constitution, it was thought fit to lay the whole matter before Parliament, in full confidence that they would not only enable the crown to take such measures as might be most likely to put a stop to those disorders, but would also take into their most serious consideration, what further regulations and permanent provisions might be necessary to be established, for better securing the laws, and the just dependence of the colonies upon the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain.

This message was accompanied with a great number of authentic papers to justify the propriety of it, which contained all the necessary information relative to the late transactions in Massachuset, and in other parts of America; and a bill was brought into Parliament, which, after considerable debates in both Houses, received the royal assent, “for removing the officers concerned in the collection of the customs from the town of Boston in the province of Massachuset's Bay in North America, and to discontinue the landing and discharging, lading and shipping of goods, wares and merchandize, at the said town of Boston or within the harbour thereof.”

This bill, called the Boston Port Bill, was passed into a law on the following principles.—
“That the opposition to the authority of Parliament had always originated in the colony of
Y 2 Massachuset,

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1774 Massachuset, and that the colony itself had ever been instigated to such conduct by the seditious proceedings of the town of Boston. That it, therefore, became necessary to begin with that town, which, by a late unparalleled outrage, had led the way to the destruction of commerce in all parts of America: that if a severe and exemplary punishment was not inflicted on this heinous act, Great Britain would be wanting in the protection she owed to her most peaceable and meritorious subjects; and that had such an insult been offered to British property in a foreign port, the nation would have been called upon to demand satisfaction for it."

The restraining clauses of this act are, however, accompanied with one of a conciliating nature, as follows:

"That whenever it shall be made to appear to his Majesty, &c. that the trade of Great Britain may be safely carried on in the town of Boston, and his Majesty's customs duly collected, it shall be lawful for his Majesty, by proclamation or order of council, to assign and appoint the extent, bounds and limits of the port or harbour of Boston, &c. and also to appoint such places, wharfs, &c. within the harbour, &c. for the landing and shipping of goods, as his Majesty shall judge necessary, and to appoint such officers of the customs as his Majesty shall think fit; after which it shall be lawful for any person to lade or to discharge and land upon such wharfs, &c. so appointed.

"Provided also, that nothing contained in this act, shall extend to enable his Majesty to appoint such port, wharfs, &c. at Boston, until sufficient satisfaction shall have been made by, or on behalf of the town of Boston, to the East India Company, for the damage sustained by the destruction of their goods sent to Boston, &c. and until reasonable satisfaction shall have been made to the officers of the revenue and others, who suffered by the riots in the months of November and December, in the year 1773, and in the month of January, in 1774."

But the Boston Port Bill formed only one part of the coercive plan proposed by the Ministry, as the effectual method of bringing her back to a state of obedience. It was soon followed by a bill "for the better regulating Government in the province of Massachuset's Bay." The purpose of which was, to alter the constitution of that province as it stood upon the charter of King William; to take the whole executive power out of the hands of the democratic part, and to vest the nomination of counsellors, judges, magistrates, &c. in the crown, and, in some cases, in the King's governor, and all to be removeable at the pleasure of the crown.

The grounds alleged for bringing in this bill were as follows:

That the province of Massachuset's Bay not only promoted distractions within itself, but set an ill example to all the colonies;—that an executive power was wanting;—that the *Posse Comitatus*, of which the civil power consists, were the very people who committed the riots;—that there was a total defect in the constitutional power throughout;—and that it, therefore, became absolutely necessary to change the whole frame of the Massachuset's government, as far as related to the executive and judicial powers.

This bill produced very long and animated debates, but was passed in both Houses by very great majorities.

The disposition so prevalent in both Houses of Parliament to strong measures, and the general opinion of the people co-operating with them, encouraged the Ministry to proceed in their plan of reducing America to obedience; and another bill was soon after proposed, "For the impartial administration of justice in the cases of persons questioned for any acts done by them in the execution of the laws, or for the suppression of riots and tumults in the province of Massachuset's Bay in New England."

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This bill provided, that in case any person was indicted in that province for murder, or any other capital offence, and that it should appear to the governor, that the fact was committed in the exercise or aid of magistracy, in suppressing tumults and riots, and that a fair trial could not be had in the province, he should send the person so indicted, &c. to any colony, or to Great Britain, to be tried.—This act was made to continue for four years.

It was urged that this bill was necessary to give efficacy to the two former.—That it was in vain to appoint a magistracy that would act, if none could be found who would dare to execute their orders: that these orders would most probably be resisted by force, which would call forth an exertion of force to execute the laws: that, in this case, blood would probably be spilled; and that it would be dangerous in any one to risk the event, though in the execution of the most evident duty, if the rioters themselves, or their abettors, were to be his judges.—This mode of proceeding was also justified by examples.

This bill being carried with the same superior strength that had marked the success of the two preceding ones, the ministry were encouraged to propose a fourth, at the close of the session, for making more effectual provision for the government of the province of Quebec, in North America.

By this bill, the limits of that province were extended much further than they stood at the time of the last general peace. The affairs of the province were submitted to the direction of a council, in which the King's Roman Catholic subjects in Canada were to be admitted: the members of this council were to be appointed by the crown, and removable at its option; it was to be invested with the powers of legislation, and to exercise all the functions annexed to such powers, excepting that of imposing taxes. The French laws were established, in civil causes, without a jury; and the English laws, with a trial by jury, only in criminal matters. The Roman Catholic secular clergy were secured in their possessions, and in the receipt of their usual tithes from people of their own communion.

This bill, though opposed with great spirit and ability, in both Houses, was equally successful with those that preceded it; but as it seemed, or was easily strained to wear the appearance of containing principles hostile to liberty and the Protestant religion, it produced no small portion of public suspicion and disapprobation.

But while the Parliament of Great Britain was letting loose the spirit of coercion on the refractory colonies, they were not idle in preparing to deprecate or resist it.

The first general congress was held at Philadelphia, on the 5th of September, in this year; when fifty-one delegates were present, viz. for New Hampshire, two; Massachusetts Bay, four; Rhode Island, two; Connecticut, three; New York, seven; New Jersey, four; Pennsylvania, seven; Newcastle, &c. counties, three; Maryland, four; Virginia, seven; North Carolina, three; South Carolina, five.

Among other resolutions, the following was agreed to at this convention, viz.

Not to import or consume any British goods, wares, or merchandize, after December 1;—nor export any of the produce of the said colonies to Great Britain after the September following.

A petition to the King for redress of grievances was signed by the delegates from twelve colonies at Philadelphia.

The House of Commons, this session, went into a committee to consider of the present state of the linen manufacture; when it appeared from witnesses examined at the bar of the House, that the linen manufacture of Scotland had decreased between two and three millions

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1774 of yards in the course of last year; that the value of what was stamped during the same period, was short of the preceding year 226,000l.; that the average price of the cloth sold in the year 1769, was 12d. 3-12ths the yard; and, in the year 1773, but 9d. 5-24ths; that four whole counties, Glasgow and Paisley included, out of 6,000 looms, had 2,500 unemployed; that the proportion of those that were in general idle, was at least one-third; that out of a certain district in the county of Sutherland, 600 out of 1,800 spinners had emigrated, and so in proportion in several other places therein specified; that some of the linens of 1771 were still on hand unfold; and, on the whole, that there were not, in the beginning of the present year, much more than half the weavers employed throughout the kingdom of Scotland and north of England.

In the adjourned committee of enquiry, Mr. Paine, governor of the Bank, underwent a long examination; and it appeared, from his testimony, that the imports of foreign linens, for four series of five years, commencing in 1752, and ending in 1771, were 31, 24, 27, and 26,000,000 yards per annum; that in 1772, it was 27,000,000; but, in 1773, had fallen to 17,000,000; which fell short of the lowest import, being that of 1762, at the conclusion of the late war:—That the value of the exports from Great Britain to Holland and Germany, from 1758 to 1763, amounted to 28,000,000l.; that from 1760 to 1766, they had fallen, on an average, to 4,000,000l. and a fraction each year; but that from the latter period to 1771, they had still further decreased one-fourth, or to 3,000,000l. and a fraction annually: that the drawback on exportation had varied from 1752 to 1771, from 44,000l. to 76,000l. and in the number of yards exported, from 7 to 10,000,000: that during the above period, the bounties paid on British and Irish linens exported, were from 18,000l. to 63,000l.; and, on an average of the three years preceding 1773, 61,000l. per annum: that the duties payable on the importation of foreign linens for twenty years past, was 173,000l. per annum; that the home consumption of foreign linens was about 18,000,000 of yards yearly; and that the whole of the foreign linen import did not exceed 700,000l. and a fraction, exclusive of what was imported from Russia, which was generally 4,000,000 yards per annum.

It appears by the export entries at the custom-house, at Dublin, that the linen trade alone had decreased 5,000,000 of yards, of the invoice value of 350,000l. in the year 1772; and by the exports from March 1772, to March 1773, they further decreased one-third, which brought them under 900,000l.; so that the exports of linen and yarn, taken together, fell short of 1,100,000l. which was little more than half of their amount in 1771.

The quantity of woollen drapery imported into Dublin in this year was as follows:

	<i>Yards.</i>
From Chester,	129,918
— Bristol,	51,756
Total,	181,674

The quantity of muslins imported in the same period, amounted to 65,951 yards.

The net duties received at the custom-house of Dublin, for goods imported and exported there, from the 3d of January, 1774, to the 3d of January, 1775, both days inclusive, amounted to 360,260l.; of which 352,309l. was on goods imported, and 7,951l. on goods exported.

The duty on hops, for this year, amounted to 138,800l. and upwards.

The excise on beer and ale, from January 1774, to January 1775, amounted to 1,385,420l. 10s.

—The whole revenue of the excise amounted to 3,487,129l. 12s. 6d.

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774 It appeared from the excise books, that the coach-tax, from 1772, to Midsummer, in this year, produced upwards of 42,000*l.* and was daily increasfing.

The following resolution was reported to the House of Commons, from the committee appointed to confider of the state of the gold coin :—“ That there be made, under the direction of the officers of his Majesty’s mint, one weight of a guinea, and one weight of a shilling ; and also other weights, being parts and multiples of the said guinea weight and shilling weight, according to the established standard of this realm ; which several weights, after they have been ascertained by the report of the said officers, and approved by his Majesty in council, shall be the standard weights for regulating and ascertaining all weights to be made use of for weighing the gold and silver coin of this realm, and shall be lodged in the custody of an officer to be appointed for that purpose, with a salary to be paid out of the coinage duties ; and any weights which shall from thenceforth be made use of for weighing the gold and silver coin of this realm, shall not be reputed and taken to be true and perfect, unless they have been compared with the said standard weights ; and, in testimony thereof, marked by the officer to whom the custody of the said standard weights shall be entrusted.

An act was founded on this resolution ; and, some time in the month of October, the mint officers presented, for the approbation of his Majesty in council, four boxes of very accurate weights, as standards for weighing the coin of these kingdoms ; two series of which, one for gold, and the other for silver, were to be preserved in the mint, as originals ; the others, as duplicates or copies of the same, were delivered to the proper officer appointed for comparing and marking all such weights for common use ; and from the last day of December following, no money weights were to be deemed legal but such as were stamped by the said officer, according to the above-mentioned act of Parliament.

It appeared, at this time, that the deficient gold money paid into the Bank, together with the light money at the above place, amounted to 3,418,960*l.*

A proclamation was issued on the 15th of October, forbidding the exportation of gunpowder, arms, or ammunition, from any part of Great-Britain, for six months, and even prohibiting the carrying of any coastwise, without first obtaining a special licence for so doing from the King or his privy council.—From this prohibition, however, the master-general of the ordnance was excepted.

By a very exact calculation it was made evident, that 94,000 head of black cattle, and upwards of 800,000 sheep and lambs were sold at Smithfield market during this year.

In the course of this year 4,106 ships cleared from Newcastle ; of which 3,720 were coasters, and 386 for foreign parts.

The number of vessels which passed the Sound in 1774, was as follows :—

	<i>Ships.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>
Danish,	892	Rostockers,	59
Dutch,	2,447	Hamburghers,	40
English,	2,385	Spanish,	18
Swedish,	1,227	Portuguese,	2
French,	39	Lubeckers,	47
Bremeners,	186	Ostenders,	14
Prussians,	284	Embdeners,	207
Russians,	36	Oldenburghers,	3
Dantzickers,	194	Courlanders,	4

Amounting, in the whole, to 8,084 vessels.

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The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent during the course of this year.

For allowing the exportation of corn and grain to his Majesty's sugar colonies in America, and to regulate the importation and exportation of wheat, meal, malt, &c. to Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark.

For reducing the duties payable upon the exportation of gum Senegal.

For allowing the free importation of salted provisions from Ireland.

For allowing the exportation of biscuit and peas to Newfoundland.

For the immediate removal of the officers of the customs from Boston in Massachusetts Bay.

For improving and preserving certain fen lands in the island of Ely, &c.

For putting into execution certain proposals of the Dukes of Buccleugh and Queensbury, for redeeming certain annuities granted by the proprietors of the Bank of Ayre, &c.

To continue an act for establishing certain free ports in Jamaica.

For better regulating insurances upon lives, and for prohibiting all such insurances, except in cases, where the persons insuring shall have any interest in the life or death of the persons insured.

To amend an act for the more effectually preventing frauds and abuses by persons employed in the manufacture of hats, woollen, linen, and cotton manufactures.

To regulate the prices of corn imported and exported.

For continuing an act for allowing the exportation of rice from Carolina and Georgia to the South of Cape Finisterre.

To prevent the exportation of utensils employed in the cotton manufacture.

For improving, &c. the navigation of the river Calders.

For improving, &c. the navigation of the river Thames.

For regulating and ascertaining the weights to be made use of in weighing the gold and silver coin.

For supplying the sum granted for the re-coinage of the gold coin.

For a free importation of Indian corn, for a limited time.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1774:

	£.	s.	d.
For 20,000 seamen, including 4,354 marines, —	1,040,000	0	0
For 18,024 land forces, including 1,522 invalids —	638,630	16	10
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the Plantations, &c. —	375,062	13	4½
For defraying the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments of five battalions of foot, &c. — —	4,627	0	3
For the pay of general and staff-officers, — —	11,473	18	6½
On account of the out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, —	122,731	5	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces and marines, —	107,525	19	2
For allowances to the several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c. — —	1,010	2	1
For pensions to widows of certain reduced officers, —	628	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, —	244,699	17	5
For the services of ditto, for ditto, not provided for by Parliament, in 1773, — — —	26,425	0	2
For the ordinary of the navy, — — —	444,188	4	3

Carried over, £. 3,017,002 17 0½

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	3,017,002	17	0 $\frac{5}{8}$
For building and repairs of ships of war, &c.	420,729	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in North Britain,	6,998	18	7
To the British Museum,	2,000	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America,	2,085	4	0
On account of the civil establishment of Senegambia,	6,336	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	3,086	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	4,850	0	0
For paying off certain Exchequer bills, &c.	1,000,000	0	0
Towards the expence which shall be incurred, in calling in and re-coining the deficient gold coin, &c.	250,000	0	0
Towards extraordinaries of the army, &c.	288,030	19	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
To David Hartley, Esq. towards enabling him to defray the charge of experiments, to ascertain the utility of his discovery of a method to secure buildings and ships from fire,	2,500	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good certain deficiencies,	43,645	12	8
For repairing, maintaining, &c. the British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum, issued in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	10,100	0	0
Towards discharging a certain capital stock of 3 per cent. annuities,	880,000	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	200,000	0	0
Total of Supplies,	6,159,661	2	11 $\frac{5}{8}$

WAYS and MEANS for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
By certain surplusses, &c.	113,190	11	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Malt-tax,	750,000	0	0
The land-tax, (at 3s.)	1,500,000	0	0
By certain surplusses,	619,303	7	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	2,080,696	12	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
From certain monies paid into the Exchequer,	15,000	0	0
Overplus of grants for the year 1773,	126,981	7	5
Balance of the two-sevenths of excise	23,637	11	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Surplus of certain duties,	20,237	5	3
Balance from the Deputy Treasurer of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	16,500	0	4
From the counties which have not raised the militia,	30,561	9	3
Total of ways and means,	6,546,108	5	9
Supply granted,	6,159,661	2	11 $\frac{5}{8}$
Excess of provisions,	£. 386,447	2	9 $\frac{3}{8}$

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A duty of 3d. per yard was this year ordered to be levied on all printed, painted, stained, and dyed stuffs, wholly made of raw cotton wool, and manufactured in Great Britain.

The following additional duties on spirits, &c. which should be imported into the province of Quebec, were likewise voted in order to be applied towards making a more certain and adequate provision for the charge of the administration of justice, and the support of civil government in that province:

May 31.—A duty of 3d. sterling per gallon upon all brandy, or other spirits of the manufacture of Great Britain: 6d. sterling per gallon on all rum, or other spirits from any of his Majesty's sugar colonies in the West Indies; and 1s. sterling per gallon on all rum, or other spirits, from any other of his Majesty's colonies in America: 1s. sterling per gallon on all foreign brandy, or other spirits, of foreign manufacture, imported from Great Britain: 1s. sterling per gallon on all rum, or other spirits, of the produce or manufacture of any of the colonies in America, not in the possession or under the dominion of his Majesty, brought from any place except Great Britain: 3d. sterling per gallon on all melasses and syrups, which should be brought in ships or vessels belonging to his Majesty's subjects in Great Britain or Ireland, or to his Majesty's subjects in the said province; and 6d. sterling per gallon on the same articles, brought in any other vessels in which the same may be legally imported.

The said duties to be levied and paid, over and above all other duties now payable by the said province of Quebec, by virtue of any former acts of Parliament.

A duty of 1l. 16s. sterling, was also voted to be paid for every licence which should be granted, by the governor, lieutenant governor, or commander in chief, of the said province, to any person or persons, for keeping a house of public entertainment, or for selling or retailing wine, brandy, rum, or any other liquors, within the said province.

Extract from the general bill of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 14, 1773, to December 14, 1774.

Christened, Males,	8,711	Buried, Males,	10,366
Females,	8,287	Females,	10,518
	<u>16,998</u>		<u>20,884</u>

At Liverpool,—births, 1,192; deaths, 1,129; marriages, 506.

In the city of Norwich,—births, 1,090; deaths, 1,055.

An estimate made at this time by the Congress of America, of the number of souls in the following provinces:

					People.
In Massachuset,	—	—	—	—	400,000
New Hampshire,	—	—	—	—	150,000
Rhode Island,	—	—	—	—	59,678
Connecticut,	—	—	—	—	192,000
New York,	—	—	—	—	250,000
New Jersey,	—	—	—	—	130,000
Pennsylvania, including the lower counties,	—	—	—	—	350,000
Maryland,	—	—	—	—	320,000
Virginia,	—	—	—	—	650,000
North Carolina,	—	—	—	—	300,000
South Carolina,	—	—	—	—	225,000
				Total,	<u>3,026,678</u>

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The laws which had been passed relative to the colony of Massachusset's Bay, and which were intended to operate both as a chastisement for past and a preventative of future misdemeanors in that province, were unfortunately productive of effects very different from those which the sanguine promoters of those bills had hoped, and which administration had held out to the nation. The cause of Boston was, indeed, now become the cause of America.

On the 30th of September in the last year, a proclamation was unexpectedly issued for the dissolution of the Parliament, and on the 30th of November following, the new Parliament assembled. The speech from the throne stated, "that a most daring spirit of resistance and disobedience to the law, still unhappily prevailed and increased in the province of Massachusset's Bay, and that those proceedings had been countenanced and encouraged in others of the colonies, and unwarrantable attempts made to obstruct the commerce of the kingdom by unlawful combinations; that such measures had been taken, and such orders given, as were judged to be most effectual for carrying into execution the laws which had been passed in the last session of the late Parliament, for the protection and security of commerce, and for restoring and preserving peace, order, and good government in the province of Massachusset's Bay; that Parliament might depend upon a firm and stedfast resolution to withstand every attempt to weaken or impair the supreme authority of the British Legislature, over all the dominions of the crown, the maintenance of which was considered as essential to the dignity, safety, and welfare of the British empire; his Majesty being assured of receiving the assistance and support of Parliament, while acting upon these principles." Such was the substance of the royal speech, and addresses in conformity to it, were voted in both Houses, by very great majorities.

On the meeting of Parliament, January 20, Lord Chatham, in the House of Lords, moved an address to his Majesty, "for recalling the troops from Boston," which was rejected by a majority of 68 against 18.

January 23.—The merchants of London presented a petition to the House of Commons, on the situation of affairs in America. Petitions of a similar nature were presented from Bristol, Glasgow, Norwich, Liverpool, Birmingham, &c.

February 1.—The Earl of Chatham offered to the House of Lords a bill, the intent of which was to settle the troubles of America. The contents of this famous bill were, a specific acknowledgment of the supremacy of the legislature, and the superintending power of the British Parliament. It declared, that no taxes or charges should be levied in America, but with the free consent of their assemblies. It asserted a right in the crown to keep and station a military force established by law, in any part of its dominions; but declared, that it could not be lawfully employed to enforce implicit and illegal submission. It authorized the holding of a congress, in order to recognize the supreme sovereignty of Great Britain over the colonies, and to settle at the same time an annual revenue upon the crown, disposable by Parliament, and applicable to the exigencies of the nation. On complying with these conditions, the acts complained of by Congress were to be suspended, with every other measure pointed out as a grievance; and the constitution of their governments to remain as settled by their charters. This bill, however, notwithstanding the importance of its object, and the illustrious character of the noble lord who framed it, was rejected without reserve, and not permitted even to lie upon the table.

February 2.—A petition was presented to the House of Commons from the planters of the Sugar Colonies, residing in Great Britain, and the merchants of London trading to those colonies.

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In this petition they set forth their great alarm at the association entered into by the continental congress, in consequence of which all trade between North America and the West Indies was to cease at a certain day, unless the acts of Parliament therein specified were repealed by that time. They stated, that the British property in the West India Islands, amounted to upwards of thirty millions sterling,—that a further property of many millions was employed in the commerce created by the said islands; a commerce comprehending Africa, the East Indies and Europe; and that the whole profits and produce of those capitals ultimately centered in Great Britain, and added to the national wealth; while the navigation necessary to all its branches, established a strength which wealth could neither purchase nor balance.

They shewed, that the sugar plantations in the West Indies are subject to a greater variety of contingencies than many other species of property, from their necessary dependence on external support; that, therefore, should any interruption happen in the general system of their commerce, the great national stock, thus vested and employed, must become precarious and unprofitable; that the profits arising from the then existing state of those islands, and that might be likely to arise from their future improvement, in a great measure depend on a free and reciprocal intercourse between them and the several provinces of North America, from whence they are furnished with provisions and other supplies, absolutely necessary for their support and the maintenance of their plantations.

They then proceeded to prove, that they could not be supplied from any other market, and in any degree proportionable to their wants, with those articles of indispensable necessity, which they then derived from the middle colonies of North America; and that if the agreement and association of the congress took full effect, the islands would be reduced to the greatest distress.

February 6.—The Minister opened his designs with respect to America; the measures now proposed to the House were, to send a greater force to America, and to pass a temporary act, suspending all the foreign trade of the different colonies of New England, and particularly the New England fishery, until they consented to acknowledge the supreme authority of the British Legislature, pay obedience to the laws of this realm, and make a due submission to the King; on doing which, these restrictions should be taken off, and their real grievances, on making proper application should be redressed.

The address voted in consequence of the ministerial motion, fully coincided with all the views he had unfolded, and it concluded with a declaration, “that it is the fixed resolution of his faithful Commons, at the hazard of their lives and properties, to stand by his Majesty, against all rebellious attempts, in the maintenance of his just rights and those of the two Houses of Parliament.

On the very next day a conference was held between the two Houses, wherein they both agreed to unite in the address; which, being carried to the Throne, was answered by an assurance of taking due measures to enforce the requisitions of it, and was accompanied with a message from the King, requesting the Commons to take the most speedy and effectual means of carrying into execution the measures they had so strongly recommended.

February 20.—Lord North moved the following resolution, which was carried by a great majority, “That when the Governor, Council, Assembly, or General Court of his Majesty’s provinces or colonies, shall propose to make provision, according to their respective conditions, circumstances and situations, for contributing their proportion to the common defence, such proportion to be raised under the authority of the General Court, or General Assembly of such province

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1775 province or colony, and disposable by Parliament; and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal should be approved by his Majesty in Parliament, and for so long as such provision should be made accordingly, to forbear in respect of such province or colony, to levy any duties, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to impose for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of the duties last mentioned, to be carried to the account of such province, colony, or plantation respectively."

February 10.—A motion was made in the House of Commons, to bring in a bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the provinces of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire; the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in North America, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies; and to prohibit such provinces and colonies from carrying on any fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, or other places therein to be mentioned, under certain conditions, and for a limited time.

The reasons offered in support of this bill were, that as the Americans had entered into agreements not to trade with this kingdom, it was but just that they should not be suffered to trade with any other nation; that their charter restricted them to the act of navigation, and that the several relaxations of that law were so many acts of grace and favour, which from their disobedience they no longer merited to enjoy; and that as the fisheries on the banks of Newfoundland, as well as all the others in North America, were the undoubted right of Great Britain, it was but just that a rebellious people should be deprived of the advantages resulting from them.

The opposition against this bill was greatly strengthened by a petition from the merchants and traders of London who were interested in the American commerce, and were permitted to be heard by their counsel against the bill, at the bar of the House.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that so far back as the year 1764, the four provinces of New England employed, in their several fisheries, no less than 45,880 ton of shipping, and 6,002 mariners; and that the produce of their fisheries in the foreign markets for that year, amounted, in sterling money, to the sum of 322,220*l.* 16*s.* It also appeared, that the fisheries had increased very much since that time; that the New England fish were much better than those taken by ships fitted out from Great Britain; that all the materials used in the fisheries, except salt, and the timber of which the vessels were built, were taken from this country, and that the net proceeds of the fish were remitted here.

It was also given in evidence, that neither the whale nor the cod fisheries could be carried on to any degree of equal extent and advantage, either from Newfoundland or Great Britain, as from North America; that there were many local circumstances and some natural advantages in favour of the latter, which could neither be counteracted or supplied; that with respect to transferring the fisheries to Nova Scotia or Quebec, were government even to furnish them with a capital, they had neither vessels nor men; nor could they procure them from any other place than New England; that, in any case, the prohibiting one fishery, and the creation of another, may take up a large portion of time, and that, in the interval, the trade would be inevitably lost; and that the people belonging to the American fisheries had such an abhorrence of the military government established at Halifax, and so invincible an aversion to the loose habits and manners of the people, that nothing could induce them to remove thither, even supposing them reduced to the necessity of emigration. It also appeared, that there was near a million of money owing from New England to London.

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1775 The evidence also stated to the House, that the calamities proceeding from this bill would fall, in a very particular manner, upon those who, from the nature of their occupations, must be innocent; for as the people belonging to the fisheries pass the greatest part of the year at sea, they could have no share in the criminal conduct which was imputed to others; that the case of the inhabitants of Nantucket was peculiarly hard: that this extraordinary people, amounting to between five and six thousand in number, nine-tenths of whom are quakers, inhabited a barren island fifteen miles long and three broad; the produce of which, was scarcely equal to the maintenance of twenty families: that from the only harbour which this island possesses, the inhabitants, by an astonishing exertion of industry, constantly employ 140 vessels, of which eight are continually engaged in the importation of provisions, and the rest in the whale fishery; which, with an invincible perseverance, they have extended from the frozen regions of the Pole, to the coasts of Africa, to the Brazils, and even as far south as the Falkland Islands; some of their fishing voyages continuing for so long a space as twelve months. The particular case of these people was so remarkable, that a motion proceeded from administration to afford them relief.

At the same time, a petition was presented by the merchants, traders, &c. of Poole, in Dorsetshire, in direct opposition, though not perhaps with equal authority, to that of London.

This petition stated, that the restraints laid upon the colonies would not, by any means, be injurious to British commerce; that the foreign markets might be amply supplied by extending the Newfoundland fishery from England; that the said fishery already exceeded half a million annually, all which centered in this kingdom, whereas the profits of the colony fisheries went elsewhere; that the fishery from the mother-country is a never failing nursery of seamen for the navy, while the American seamen were not compellable to serve their country in time of war. It concluded with soliciting such encouragement to the British fishery to Newfoundland, as Parliament should think best adapted to the enlargement of it. In short, it appeared, that about 400 ships of 36,000 tons burthen, 2,000 fishing shallops of 20,000 tons burthen, and 20,000 mariners, &c. were employed in the British Newfoundland fishery; that above 600,000 quintals of fish were annually taken, which, upon an average of seven years, were worth 14s. per quintal; and, with the other amounts, consisting of salmon, cod-oil, seal, and furs, exceeded half a million yearly; and that of the 20,000 men from Great Britain and Ireland employed in that fishery, 8,000 necessarily continued in Newfoundland all the winter.

In every stage of this business the violence of debate rekindled; the same spirit of opposition met it in the House of Lords, where it was so enlarged as to include in its restrictions the provinces of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina. But this amendment did not meet with the concurrence of the House of Commons, and the bill was passed without the proposed alteration.

This bill was immediately followed by another, upon the principle of the amendment proposed by the Lords in the last, "To restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Islands in the West Indies, under certain conditions and limitations.

While this bill was in agitation, a long series of important evidence in behalf of the West India merchants and planters, and in support of the petition which they had lately presented, was laid before the House. Mr. Glover, the author of *Leonidas*, and equally celebrated for
literary

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1775 literary merit as for commercial knowledge, appeared as agent for the petitioners at the bar of the House.

It appeared from the evidence produced on this occasion, that the sugar colonies were to be considered as vast manufactories, with this peculiar distinction from others, that they were obliged to raise their own materials; that the cane was the raw material; sugar, melasses and rum, the manufacture; that the raising of provision was, and must necessarily continue to be, a very secondary object; that, if necessity should at any time render it otherwise, the manufacture must, of course, decline in proportion to the attention paid to the other; but that the scarcity of land in the small islands, the great value of cultivable land, for the purpose of raising the material in all, together with the excessive price of labour, and many insurmountable natural impediments, rendered the raising of any thing like a sufficient stock of provisions utterly impracticable. That the middle colonies of North America were the great sources of supply to the West India Islands, not only for provision, but for an article equally necessary, which is understood under the term lumber; and by which is meant every kind of timber and wood that is used in building and the cooperage; excepting only some particular cases, wherein great strength and durability are required, and in which the hard woods peculiar to the tropical regions are preferable.

It was also asserted without reserve, that no other sources of supply could be opened either in America or in Europe, which, with respect to time, quantity, and many other circumstances, could prevent the dreadful effects of a famine in the Sugar Islands; an event which would be rendered still the more dreadful, by the vast superiority of the negroes to the white people in number, and the horrible barbarities which must be expected from them, in circumstances of calamity that would destroy all order and distinction among the most civilized nations: and that if there was even a possibility of averting this fatal event, the islands would, notwithstanding, be ruined, as their great staple commodities of sugar and rum would be useless for want of casks to contain them; and they could not receive slaves from any part of Europe upon such terms as they were able to comply with.

It appeared also in the course of this evidence, that on a very moderate calculation, in which large allowances were made for every possible excess, that the capital in those islands, consisting in cultivated lands, buildings, negroes, and stock of all kinds, did not amount to less than 60,000,000*l.* sterling; that their exports for some years past to Great Britain, had amounted to about 190,000 hogsheads and puncheons of sugar and rum; amounting in weight to near 95,000 tons, and in value to about 4,000,000*l.* exclusive of a great number of smaller articles; and of their very great export to North America; that their growth was so great, and their improvements so rapid, that within a very few years, their export of sugar to this kingdom, was increased 40,000 hogsheads annually, amounting to about 800,000*l.* in value.

It appeared also to be extremely probable, though it was not (for perhaps it could not be) precisely ascertained, that more than one half of that vast capital of 60,000,000*l.* was either the immediate property of, or was owing to persons resident in this country. It was also evident, that the revenue gained above 700,000*l.* per ann. upon the direct West India trade, exclusive of its eventual and circuitous products of the African trade; and it was fully shewn, that this immense capital and trade, as well as that of Africa, neither of which could subsist without the other, were from nature and circumstances, in a great measure, if not wholly, dependent upon North America.

March

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March 22.—Mr. Edmund Burke, in his speech on moving his conciliatory propositions with respect to the colonies, in taking a view of the trade of this country at different periods, made it appear, that the whole exports to North America, the West Indies, and Africa, in the year 1704, amounted only in value to 569,930*l.* and that in the year 1772, which was taken upon a medium, as being neither the highest nor the lowest of those which might have been applied to of late, the exports to the same places (including those from Scotland, which in 1704 had no existence) amounted to no less than 6,024,171*l.* being in the proportion of nearly eleven to one.

He also shewed, that the whole export trade of England, including that to the colonies, amounted at the first period of 1704, to no more than 6,509,000*l.* Thus the trade to the colonies alone, was, at the latter period, within less than half a million of being equal to what this great commercial nation carried on, at the beginning of the present century, with the whole world; and stating, as he did at this period, the whole commerce of this country at 16,000,000, that to the colonies, which in the first period constituted but one twelfth of the whole, was now very considerably more than one third.

But however astonishing the general encrease of the whole colonies at large might appear, the growth of the province of Pennsylvania is still more extraordinary. In the year 1704, the whole exports to that colony amounted to 11,819*l.* and in 1772, were risen to 507,909*l.* being nearly fifty times the original demand, and almost equal to the whole colony export at the first period.

April 19.—On this day hostilities may be said to have commenced in America. General Gage having sent a detachment to seize or destroy cannon and ammunition at Concord, were, on their return to Boston, fired on at Lexington by some of the Provincials, when a succession of skirmishes took place, and several on both sides were killed and wounded.

April 27.—As the American fisheries were now abolished, it became necessary to think of forming some plan for supplying their place, and to guard against the ruinous consequences of the foreign markets either changing the course of consumption, or falling into the hands of strangers, and those, perhaps, hostile to this country.

The consumption of fish oil, as a substitute for tallow, was now become so extensive, as to render that also an object of great national concern; the city of London alone expending about 300,000*l.* annually in that commodity.

It seemed also to be necessary in this critical period, to pay a more particular attention to the interests of the kingdom of Ireland, than had been the practice for many years. It had appeared in the mass of evidence which had lately been offered to the House of Commons, that the exports from England to Ireland amounted, at this time, to 2,400,000*l.* per annum, besides her supporting a large and excellent army at all times ready for our defence; and the immense sums of her ready cash, which her numerous absentees, pensioners and placemen spend in this country. Yet, from oppressive restrictions in trade, the kingdom was cut off from the benefit of her great natural staple commodity, as well as excluded in general from the advantages which she might derive from her admirable situation, and her great number of excellent harbours.

The Minister accordingly moved for a committee of the whole House, to consider of the encouragement proper to be given to the fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the progress of the bill it was agreed, “ That a bounty of 40*l.* be given to the first 100 ships that arrive with a cargo of 10,000 cod-fish, caught on the banks of Newfoundland; 20*l.* for the

next

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1775 next 100 ships, and 10l. for the next 100 ships. That a bounty of 500l. be given to the ship that arrives with the greatest quantity of whale oil; 400l. for the next greatest quantity; 300l. for the next; 200l. for the next, and 100l. for the next. That Ireland have liberty to import blubber and whale fins, the same as England: that the duty on seal skins imported into Ireland do cease and be no longer paid: that Ireland have leave to export cloathing to America, for so much of the army as they supply and pay for; as also provisions, hooks, lines, nets, tools and implements, for the purposes of the fishery: and that a bounty of 5s. per barrel be given to all flax seed imported into Ireland.

The following are the principal events which took place in America in this year, and as they will be found to operate materially on the future transactions of the war which followed, a general statement of them, at least, is essential to this period of our history.

In the month of May, the Virginians came to a resolution not to export tobacco to Great Britain; and the provincial assembly of New Jersey prohibited all exports whatever.

The second general Congress met at Philadelphia, where they established a paper currency for the support of a continental army, and took the Post-office into their own hands. They likewise resolved, "that no negociation by bill, draught, or supply, be done with British officers or their agents;" and "that the compact between the Crown and the people of Massachusetts Bay be dissolved, &c."

The provincial assembly of South Carolina, also came to a resolution not to deal with any of the inhabitants of Pool in Dorsetshire.

On the 17th of June, a very bloody action took place between the King's troops and the Provincials, on Bunker's Hill.

In the month of July, the provincial assembly of New York prohibited the exportation of provisions to the Newfoundland fishery; and the non-importation of British goods was agreed to in Georgia and Virginia. Congress, however, allowed the importation of military stores.

A Congress of Indian chiefs and warriors met General Carleton and Colonel Johnson at Montreal, and resolved to fulfill their engagements with Great Britain.

Every port in America was shut by a resolution of Congress; who, a few days afterwards, rejected the proposition of Parliament, made on the 20th of February, in this year: and, in the ensuing month, non-exportation and non-importation took place throughout America in consequence of that resolution.

In the month of August, the committee chamber of New York strictly forbade the supplying of the British troops in America with provisions: at the same time, the provincial assembly of Pennsylvania resolved not to deal with certain British merchants.

About this time, upwards of 3000l. in 36s. pieces, were seized on board a ship in the river Thames, bound for Boston in New England.

The States General of Holland issued a proclamation, prohibiting the exportation of war-like stores to America: and in October, the King of Denmark published an edict, forbidding his subjects to give any assistance to the Americans.

A proclamation was also made in the British West India Islands, forbidding all intercourse with the Americans.

A great number of people having been tempted by American emissaries to quit Scotland, emigration from that country was prohibited, and particularly from the Western Islands.

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In the month of November, the provincial committee of Pennsylvania instructed their delegates, "not to agree to any proposition in the general Congress, that might lead to a separation with the mother country, or to a change of government."

In December the West India planters and merchants in London, petitioned the House of Commons on American affairs.

On the 23d of the same month, a bill to prohibit all trade and intercourse with the American colonies, in actual rebellion, received the royal assent.

At the opening of the session, a petition had been presented to both Houses of Parliament from the Assembly of Nova Scotia. It was sent from that assembly in consequence of Lord North's conciliatory proposition; and was intended, by those who promoted it in that colony, as a pattern and precedent for the rest. The mode of granting a revenue, proposed by this assembly, was the payment of some specific duty per cent. upon importation of all foreign commodities, bay salt only excepted; by which means the amount of the revenue would at all times bear a due relation and proportion to the opulence and consumption of the province, &c.

Many causes, however, concurred to lessen the effect of this petition from Nova Scotia. That province had cost government immense sums of money, without its growth or value in any degree corresponding with the expence. It was still unequal to the support of its own civil government, the expence of which was annually granted by Parliament; so that the offer of a revenue in such circumstances, however laudable the motives and intention, carried in some degree a ludicrous appearance: as it was, also, under the influence of a military power, its acts could not be supposed to carry any great weight as an example, with those colonies who abhorred such an appearance, and whose present troubles arose from a defence of what they conceived to be their civil immunities and constitution.

The petition, besides, contained a long catalogue of grievances, the redress of which was as earnestly pressed, though in more suppliant language, as a similar redress had been by the other provinces, and seemed, in some degree, to be considered as conditional and necessary towards the establishment of a permanent connection, and for retaining the affection and obedience of the people. Upon the whole, excepting the profession of submission to the supreme legislature, which had only of late been a question any where, and the proposal of a duty, which seemed little more than a commercial regulation, this petition did not contain any thing essentially different from the former application of other colonies.

Resolutions, however, to the following purpose were now proposed by the minister, and passed in a committee, as foundations for an intended bill, viz. that the proposal of a poundage duty, *ad valorem*, upon all commodities imported, bay salt excepted, not being the produce of the British dominions in Europe or America, to be disposed of by Parliament, should be accepted, and the duty fixed at 8l. per cent. upon all such commodities. That as soon as the necessary acts for that purpose were passed by the Assembly of Nova Scotia, and had received the royal approbation, all other taxes and duties in that province should cease and be discontinued, and no other laid on, while those acts continued in force, excepting only such duties as were found necessary for the regulation of commerce; the net produce of which were to be carried to the account of the province: and to admit an importation into that province of wines, oranges, lemons, currants and raisins, directly from the place of their growth and produce.

This

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1775 This relaxation of the act of navigation, though not very considerable, was intended to shew the favourable disposition of Parliament towards this province, which had set so laudable an example of obedience; and seemed to hold out to the colonies in general, an enlargement of commerce as a compensation for their acceding to the conciliatory resolution. Indeed, no small attention was paid to this petition, as forming a model for future taxation; and serious hopes were entertained of its effect until it had passed the committee. But the pacific system, of which this measure was a leading part, was suddenly laid aside, and the whole of this business was suffered to die away. The projected bill was not brought in, and after the ensuing holidays, the petition from Nova Scotia was heard of no more.

The following is a compleat list of the Emperor of Morocco's navy at this time.

At Larache,—two frigates of 30 guns and 200 men each;—three frigates of 24 guns and 150 men each;—two frigates of 20 guns and 130 men each;—one galliot of 22 oars, 12 guns and 90 men each.

At Tetuan,—two xebecs of 30 oars, 20 guns and 200 men each;—one galliot of 32 oars, 16 guns and 100 men;—three galliots of 24 oars, 10 guns and 90 men each;—one galliot of 16 oars, 8 guns and 60 men;—one xebec of 26 oars and 16 guns, and two galliots of 22 oars and 12 guns, ready for launching.

At Sallee,—one vessel of 24 guns and 180 men;—one xebec of 20 oars, 18 guns and 120 men;—three galliots of 30 oars, 10 guns and 130 men each.

At Tangier,—one galliot of 36 oars, 20 guns and 160 men.

It appeared from authentic papers, that during this year, the number of packs of cards stamped, amounted to 428,000, and of pairs of dice to 3,000; and that during the same period 12,300,000 newspapers had been published.

The quantity of gold that had been coined at the Tower of London since the year 1772, amounted to about 13,000,000*l*.

An account of the value of corn imported into England and Scotland since the commencement of the corn register act in 1770, the value of corn exported in each year being first deducted.

			<i>£</i> .
Balance paid for corn in 1771,	—	—	105,200
————— 1772,	—	—	84,400
————— 1773,	—	—	569,820
————— 1774,	—	—	1,022,230
		Total,	1,781,650

The imports into Great Britain from Virginia and Maryland, before the war, were 96,000 hogsheds of tobacco, of which 13,500 were consumed at home; and the duty on them, at 26*l*. 1*s*. each, amounted to 331,675*l*.: the remaining 82,500 were exported by our merchants to different parts of Europe, and brought a great deal of money into this kingdom. This trade alone constantly employed 330 ships and 3,960 sailors.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the Parliamentary sessions of this year.

A bill to explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act for prohibiting the exportation of utensils made use of in the woollen, linen, and other manufactures.

To continue an act for allowing the free importation of Irish salted provisions, &c.

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For restraining the trade of New England, and the fisheries of that colony on the banks of Newfoundland.

The Oxford canal and Thames navigation bills.

A bill to restrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina, to Great Britain, Ireland, and the West India islands.

To explain and amend an act to prevent frauds in the manufacture of hats, the woollen, and divers other branches of trade.

To enable Sir Nigel Gresley and son to make a navigable canal from certain coal mines at Apedale, in Staffordshire, to Newcastle under Line.

To enable the different universities in Great Britain, and the colleges of Eton, Westminster, and Winchester, to hold, in perpetuity, their copy-right in books given or bequeathed to them, for the advancement of learning.

For altering, explaining, and amending several acts of Parliament in Scotland, relative to colliers, coal-bearers, and falters.

For compleating and maintaining the pier of Magavissey, in Cornwall.

To permit the free importation of raw goat-skins into this kingdom.

To permit the importation of painted earthen ware, except gally-tiles, the manufacture of Europe, to be sold in Great Britain.

For the encouragement of the fisheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British dominions in Europe.

For giving a public reward to such person or persons as shall discover a northern passage from Europe to the western and southern ocean of America.

To enlarge the term of letters patent granted to William Clockworth, for the sole use of a discovery of certain materials for the making of porcelain.

To prohibit all trade with the North American colonies, now in actual rebellion, during the continuance thereof.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 18,000 seamen, including marines,	936,000	0	0
Towards building and repairing ships, &c.	297,379	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy,	440,680	15	10
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	228,059	1	7
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1774,	32,748	5	3
For 17,547 land-forces, including 4,383 invalids, &c.	695,396	11	5
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the plantations and Africa, at Minorca, Gibraltar, &c.	386,186	0	10½
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments,	2,874	4	9
Ditto,	9,536	10	7
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	11,473	18	6½
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	122,221	15	5
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	105,326	16	8
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	870	3	9
For pensions to the widows of certain reduced officers,	628	0	0

Carried forward, 3,269,381 4 7½

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	Brought over,	£.	s.	d.
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	—	3,269,381	4	7 $\frac{5}{8}$
On account of Greenwich Hospital,	—	262,537	7	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
To the trustees of the British Museum,	—	6,000	0	0
To the Levant Company, to be applied in assisting the said Company in carrying on their trade,	—	3,000	0	0
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	—	5,000	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	—	4,346	10	5
Ditto of East Florida,	—	3,086	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	—	4,950	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	—	5,450	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America,	—	6,336	0	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
For making out charts of Great Britain and Ireland,	—	1,885	4	0
Ditto of North America,	—	2,145	0	0
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	—	3,711	15	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	—	13,000	0	0
For cleaning Barbadoes harbour,	—	12,578	14	9
To make good certain sums expended in preventing distempers among the horned cattle,	—	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	—	1,684	15	10
Further deficiency in the gold coin,	—	6,998	10	7
Extras of the mint,	—	46,846	9	3
Further expence of coinage,	—	22,824	19	9
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of 1774,	—	11,716	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	—	607,974	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
		1,250,000	0	0

Total Supplies,

5,556,453 3 7

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 3s.	1,500,000	0	0
From the sinking fund, 5th of January,	11,239	10	0
Ditto, 5th of April,	884,447	3	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto, growing produce,	1,904,313	6	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,250,000	0	0
By a lottery,	150,000	0	0
American revenues,	15,000	0	0
Gum Senecca,	5,000	0	0
French prize-money,	17,000	0	0
Sale of the ceded islands,	50,000	0	0
By surplusses of certain duties remaining in the Exchequer,	22,246	9	0
Total of Ways and Means,	6,559,246	9	0
Supplies granted,	5,556,453	3	7
Excess of provisions,	1,002,793	5	5

The

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1775 The number of christenings and burials from December 13, 1774, to December 14, 1775, within the London bills of mortality, is as follows :—

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,876	Males,	10,134
Females,	8,753	Females,	10,380
In all,		In all,	
17,629		20,514	

At Paris, during this year, the births were 19,650,—viz. 10,247 boys, and 9,403 girls ;—the deaths, 18,400 ; and the marriages, 5,016.—The children admitted into the foundling hospital of that city amounted to 6,505.

1776 The speech from the throne, on the 26th of October, in the last year, announced an actual state of rebellion in the North American colonies, and set forth the necessity of employing a sufficient force to suppress it. His Majesty then entered into the difference that subsisted between the views of those who fomented and took the lead in this rebellion, and those of the Crown and Parliament. The view of the latter was rather to undeceive than to punish : a small number of forces, therefore, was only sent, and propositions of a conciliatory nature accompanied the means taken to enforce authority. The former, whilst they endeavoured to delude with specious professions, had in view nothing but the establishment of an independent empire. That the spirit of the British nation was too high, and its resources too numerous, to suffer her tamely to lose what had been acquired with great toil, nursed with great tenderness, and protected at much expence of blood and treasure.—That wisdom, and, in the end, clemency, required a full exertion of these resources.—That the navy had been increased, and the land forces greatly augmented : foreign succours, though no treaty was then concluded, were held out ; and the disposition of the Hanoverian troops in Mahon and Gibraltar, was specified.—In the end, an assurance of the royal mercy was given, as soon as the deluded multitude should become sensible of their error ; and to prevent the inconveniencies which might arise from the great distance of their situation, and to remove as soon as possible the calamities which they suffer, authority would be given to certain persons on the spot, to grant general or particular pardons and indemnities, in such manner, and to such persons, as they should think fit ; and to receive the submission of any province or colony which should be disposed to return to its allegiance. It was also observed, that it might be proper to authorise such commissioners to restore any province or colony, returning to its allegiance, to the free exercise of its trade and commerce, and to the same protection and security as if it had never revolted. It was also added, that from the general appearance of affairs in Europe, there was no apparent probability that the measures which might be adopted would be interrupted by disputes with any foreign power.

The sentiments of Parliament corresponded with those of the crown ; and as it was now become a determined point with government to support the legislative authority and commercial controul of Great Britain over the colonies, such measures were proposed to Parliament, and adopted by it, as were thought to be most conducive to that end. Among these was the prohibitory bill which was brought in at the commencement of this session ; and, after a succession of debates, in which the resources of argument and eloquence were exhausted, it was carried by great majorities in both Houses.

This

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This bill totally interdicted all trade and intercourse with the thirteen united colonies, and declared all property of Americans, whether of ships or goods, on the high seas or in harbour, forfeited to the captors, being the officers and crews of his Majesty's ships of war; and several clauses were inserted to facilitate and to lessen the expence of the condemnation of prizes, as well as the recovery of prize money. This bill, besides its primary object, repealed the Boston port-bill, with the fishery and restraining acts, as their provisions, in some instances, were deemed insufficient in the then state of warfare, and as their operation in others was liable to interfere with that of the intended law.—It also enabled the crown to appoint commissioners, who, besides the power of granting pardons to individuals, were authorised to enquire into general and particular grievances, and empowered to determine whether any part, or the whole of a colony, were returned to that state of obedience which might entitle them to be received within the King's protection; in which case, upon a declaration from the commissioners, the restrictions enacted by the present bill were to cease in their favour.

At a quarterly general court of proprietors of East India stock, held at their house in Leadenhall-street, it appeared that the debt to government was reduced from 1,400,000*l.* to 420,000*l.* and that the Company was otherwise in a flourishing situation.

It would certainly be an act of negligence in us, if we were entirely to pass by a matter, which, about this time, made a great noise in the city, occasioned much discontent amongst the merchants, and was, at length, though without effect, brought into both houses of Parliament.

A clause in the late prohibitory act, which enabled the admiralty to grant licences to vessels for conveying stores and provisions to the forces upon the American service, had been made use of to countenance a trade in certain individuals; by which, it was said, that a monopoly was formed, and the American trade was transferred from the ancient merchants, and known traders, to a few obscure persons, of no account or condition, and an illicit commerce established, under the sanction of that bill, which was utterly subversive of one of its principal apparent objects.

It certainly appeared that these licences were very loosely composed, and very carelessly granted; that the commissioners of the customs did not chuse to interfere much in the matter; that though the licences were recalled, and some alterations made in them, this measure produced little effect; and that even when complaints grew loud, and something like a parliamentary enquiry was announced or begun, though some of the goods were unshipped, yet, in general, the scheme succeeded; the ships which had cleared out for Boston, altering only the destination of their voyage, and taking a new clearance for Halifax and Canada, with liberty to go to any other port in America. It appeared in evidence before the House of Commons, that by these, and other means, a greater quantity of all manner of goods calculated for the North American market, had been shipped within a few weeks, than was done in any of the usual seasons of exportation.

The great body of American merchants were loud in their complaints: they represented it to be a matter very injurious and unjust to them, who had already suffered so severely in consequence of the troubles of the times, and who, in obedience to the late act of Parliament, were at that very moment sinking under the incumbrance of a vast quantity of goods, which they had purchased for the American market, and for which they could find no other,—to see the trade, that for a number of years they had conducted with the greatest reputation and integrity, smuggled, as it were, out of their hands, by a set of nominal merchants and unknown
adventurers.

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1776 adventurers. The injury was also described as still more grievous, from being committed under the colour of law, and with the licence of authority.

The first public attention that was paid to this business was in the House of Lords; where the Earl of Effingham, some short time before the recess at Easter, made a motion, which was agreed to, that lists of those ships, and their cargoes, as well as the licences which were granted by the admiralty, should be laid before the House. There the matter rested for some time:—But, on the 2d of May, the lord mayor moved in the House of Commons for a committee to enquire into the whole transaction. In the course of the debate on this occasion, the minister, after defending the measure on the principle of its being designed for the use, benefit, and comfort of the troops on the American service, acknowledged that the powers given in the act had been misunderstood, and the licenses abused, but that these matters were already rectified, and a stop put to the mischief. A committee, however, was appointed, but was dissolved after a very long debate and examination of witnesses on the occasion, without coming to any resolution whatever.

The Congress of America began now strongly to recommend the study and improvement of agriculture, arts, manufactures, and commerce in the United Colonies.

On the 23d of March, they issued letters of marque to cruise against the subjects of Great Britain: and at one of their assemblies, soon after, they came to a resolution to permit trade with any nation but Great Britain and Ireland.

In consequence of the provincial assembly of North Carolina recommending a declaration of independence and foreign alliance, several Americans of consideration sailed from New York, with proposals from Congress to the principal courts of Europe.

About this period, the Empress Queen published an ordinance, prohibiting her subjects from all intercourse with the Americans.

On the 3d of May, Lord Viscount Howe, and Major-general Howe, were appointed his Majesty's commissioners for restoring peace in America, with power of pardon, punishment, &c.—On the 11th of the same month, the Virginians published a declaration of rights and independence: and very shortly after, Congress considering the United Colonies as excluded by the capture acts from the protection of the crown, suppressed its authority.

On the 23d, his Majesty put an end to this session of Parliament by a speech from the throne, which concluded in the following manner:—"I will still hope that my rebellious subjects may be awakened to a sense of their errors, and that by a voluntary return to their duty, they will justify me in bringing about the favourite wish of my heart, the restoration of harmony, and the re-establishment of order and happiness in every part of my dominions.—But if a due submission should not be obtained from such motives and such dispositions on their part, I trust that I shall be able, under the blessing of Providence, to effectuate it by a full exertion of the great force with which you have entrusted me."—Notwithstanding which, on the 4th of July, Congress declared the United States of America independent. This declaration (abjuring all allegiance to the British crown, and renouncing all political connections with this country) was read in every town in the colonies, and at the head of the continental army at New York.

While the principal powers of Europe stood coldly aloof, and seemed rather inclined to thwart, than forward the views of Great Britain with respect to her American colonies, we have one example of an ally who was faithful to treaties, and hostile to rebellion, wherever it might arise. Influenced by that good faith which should ever govern nations, as well as the indi-

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1776 individuals which compose them, his Most Faithful Majesty, the King of Portugal, published the following edict on the 4th of July, in this year, prohibiting his subjects from any intercourse with the Americans :—

“ Whereas we have lately been informed, that the British colonies of North America have, by an act of Congress held on the 15th of May last, not only declared themselves entirely free from all subjection to the crown of Great Britain, but were, moreover, actually employed in forming and enacting laws by their own private authority, in opposition to the lawful rights of our brother, friend, and ally, the King of Great Britain :” and whereas so pernicious an example ought to engage every Prince, even those it interests the least, not to abet, favour, or assist, by any means, directly or indirectly, such subjects united in such direct and open rebellion against their natural sovereign ; it is our pleasure, and we do hereby ordain, that no ship, with or without lading, coming from any of the ports of the aforesaid British America, shall be allowed any intercourse with, or entrance into any of the ports of these our kingdoms, or of the dominions thereunto belonging ; but that, on the contrary, they shall be forced away immediately on their arrival, without succour of any kind whatever : and that as to the masters of vessels who have hitherto been suffered to enter, (there not appearing reason for their being excluded) it shall be notified to them, that within the precise term of eight days, to be counted successively, they shall quit the said ports with their vessels, which shall first be searched, in order to discover if they have any gun-powder on board, or any other of those warlike stores, the export of which was prohibited to them by our royal decree of the 21st of October last, directed to the officers of our arsenal and exportation duties : and that if any such stores or ammunition shall be found put on board by stealth, the said vessels, as a capture from declared rebels, shall be confiscated for the use of carrying on the public buildings ; and so be it understood by the council of our finances, which shall order printed copies of this our decree to be taken off, and fixed up in all the public places of the city of Lisbon, and all the parts of this kingdom and that of Algarve, that it may come to the knowledge of all, and that no one may plead ignorance thereof.

“ *Palace of Ajuda, 4th of July, 1776.*”

On the 7th of October following, his Most Catholic Majesty likewise declared his neutrality with respect to Great Britain and America ; as appears by a letter written by the Marquis de Grimaldi to the governor of Bilboa, relative to an American privateer, which had taken five English ships, and had been detained thereupon at the said port, at the request of the English vice-consul, with the proceedings of the governor in consequence thereof.—Of this letter, dated St. Ildefonso, the 7th of October, we shall give the substance, as follows :—

“ That having received advice from the governor of Bilboa respecting the detention of an American ship, named the Hawke, Captain John Lee, and the several attestations of the persons concerned, which had been laid before his Majesty, he had been pleased to declare, that in consequence of the amity subsisting between his Catholic Majesty and the King of Great Britain, he should maintain a perfect neutrality during the present war ; that he should not give any aid to the Colonists ; but should not deny their being admitted into any ports of his dominions, while they conformed to the laws of the country.”

In consequence of the above letter, the governor set at liberty the American vessel, delivered back her papers, and supplied her with such provisions, water, &c. (care being taken that no prohibited goods should be put on board) as should enable her to proceed on her voyage.

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While the principal powers of Europe stood aloof, Great Britain, notwithstanding her thwart, than forward the views of Great Britain, and have one example of an ally who was faithful in the hour of need, might arise. Influenced by that good faith,

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 ay, oats, and beans, amounted to almost as much. Besides the ex-

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The articles of confederation and perpetual union between the United States of America, were signed on the 4th of October, in this year, by all the delegates in Congress. After a forcible statement of the reasons for making this change in the government and constitution of North America, the declaration concludes as follows:—

“ We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, **FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES**;—that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent states have a right to do.—And, for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour.—Signed by order, and in behalf of the Congress,

“ **JOHN HANCOCK**, *President*.

“ **CHARLES THOMSON**, *Secretary*.”

On the 31st of October, the session of Parliament was opened.—In the speech delivered from the throne, it was represented, among other particulars, that the people of America had not only renounced their allegiance to the crown, and their political connection with this country, but rejected, with circumstances of indignity and insult, the means of conciliation held out to them by the commission sent out for that purpose.—That if their resistance continued unsuppressed, much mischief would ensue to the commerce of Great Britain, and to the political system of Europe, &c. &c.

By a proclamation issued the 12th of April, in this year, for the regulation of the gold coin of this kingdom, and which took place on the 1st of May, the following was the standard settled, and allowed to be current in any payment whatever in Great Britain, viz.

Guineas coined prior to the 1st of January, 1772, weighing 5 dwts. 8 grs.—half-guineas, 2 dwts. 16 grs.—and quarter-guineas, 1 dwt. 8 grs.—Guineas, however, coined prior to the said period, weighing 5 dwts. 6 grs.—half-guineas, 2 dwts. 14 grs.—and quarter-guineas, 1 dwt. 7 grs.; were, till the 19th of August, 1776, inclusively, received in payments at the Exchequer, the Bank of England, and at all the revenue offices throughout the kingdom.—Certain persons were likewise appointed by the lords commissioners of the Treasury and the Bank of England, to receive and exchange all gold of the last-mentioned standard, in every city and principal town in the different counties, &c. of Great Britain.

On the 11th of November, in this year, Mr. David Hartley, then member of Parliament for Kingston upon Hull, made the sixth and last experiment to evince the efficacy of a new, cheap, and easy method, invented by him, for preserving houses, ships, &c. built with the most combustible materials, from fire.

Mr. Hartley had built an house expressly for the purpose, which consisted of three stories, and with two large rooms on a floor, where he had made his former experiments. The manner in which he conducted them on the present occasion was as follows:—

He first ordered a fire to be made on the deal flooring of one of the ground-rooms: then a large faggot of shavings, suspended by iron from the upper part of the same room, was set on fire. After this, the stair-case was set on fire, both above and below, without the fire extend-

ing,

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1776 ing, in either case, beyond the spot on which it was lighted. Lastly, the other room on the ground-floor, filled almost to the top with faggots, pitch, and other combustibles, was set fire to; but though they all burned in such a manner as to vomit forth a perpetual torrent of flame and smoke, and thereby rendered all approach within thirty yards of the windows, on the outside, absolutely impracticable, the room adjoining to, and that immediately over this temporary Vesuvius, continued as cool and as accessible as if no fire had happened in the house.

Nor were its walls, floors, and ceilings alone preserved; for even fixtures and household furniture were thereby rendered proof against the rage of this otherwise all-devouring element, though found, at the same time, sufficient to prepare iron for the anvil; particularly, a bed being purposely set on fire, little more of it was consumed than the part to which the fire had been immediately applied.

But singular as the effects of this contrivance for securing houses, ships, and other buildings from fire, must appear, the means, perhaps, from their perfect simplicity, may be thought equally extraordinary. They consist of nothing more than the thinnest plates of iron nailed to the joists, &c.; and to the facility of execution, may be added the cheapness of it, as the additional expence of building scarce exceeds three per cent.

The Newfoundland fishery, in the present year, did not in any degree answer the expectations, which were held out in the preceding session, of the ease with which the great American share of it would be immediately transferable to the people of Great Britain, and the signal advantages which they would derive from thence. For though there was some increase of ships and men, both from England and Ireland, employed in the fishery, they were not in any manner equal to supplying the deficiency which the late law had occasioned, even supposing that no new obstacles were thrown in their way, and that all other matters had continued in their usual state. But the retaliation which was practised by the Americans, of cutting off our fisheries from all provisions and supplies from the colonies, (a measure, which, however obvious, does not seem to have been apprehended till it was felt) threw the whole business upon the banks of Newfoundland into the greatest disorder and confusion, and brought distress upon all who were employed by sea or land. To prevent the consequences of famine, a number of ships, instead of being laden with fish, were necessarily sent off light, to procure flour and other provisions wherever they were to be had: so that the first operation of the fishery bill was attended with very great loss and disadvantage to this country.

We cannot but consider the vast supplies which were sent to the army at Boston as a commercial circumstance, and shall therefore just mention the articles of which they consisted.

As the want of fresh provisions of every sort was one of the principal grievances which the British troops at Boston had sustained, and had caused a very general sickness among them, the remedy of that evil was an object that called for a very attentive consideration. On this account great quantities of cattle, &c. were contracted for, and shipped for America. No less than 5,000 oxen, 14,000 of the largest sheep, and a vast number of hogs were sent out alive. Vegetables of all kinds were also bought up in quantities that are scarcely credible, and new methods were contrived to preserve them; and 10,000 butts of beer were added to the enormous catalogue of necessaries on the occasion. But this is not all;—5,000 chaldrons of coals were purchased in the river, and shipped off for Boston; and even the article of faggots was sent from London. The seemingly trifling necessaries of vegetables, casks, and vinegar alone, amounted to 22,000*l.*; and though we had but a single regiment of light cavalry at Boston, the articles of hay, oats, and beans, amounted to almost as much. Besides the ex-

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1776 pence of these articles we have mentioned, and the charge of flour, corn, and salted provisions, near half a million of Spanish and Portuguese coin was transmitted for the extraordinary and contingent articles in various branches of military operations. Nor must it be omitted in the history of this extraordinary, novel, and, as it turned out, (from causes which we shall not enumerate) almost useless exportation, that from the multitude of transports employed in the different parts of the service, the price of tonnage was raised above one-fourth of its usual rate.

A commercial company was about this time formed at Paris, under the name of the *Caiffe d'Escompte*, or Discount Office; an establishment with a fund of 15,000,000 of livres. They contracted to discount bills and notes, both in peace and war, without ever exceeding the rate of 4 per cent.; and bound themselves to this single branch of business, the gold and silver trade, and the receipt of voluntary deposits of cash, without meddling in any other matters whatever. The French boasted, at the time, that this establishment was an improvement on the plan of the Bank of England, and issued out notes in imitation of it.

The charter of the Dutch East India Company having expired in the year 1773, the Company, after stating that its trade had declined, solicited the States General to grant a diminution of the sum formerly paid for the renewal of the charter. Upon this representation, their High Mightinesses, in order to have time to enquire into the matter, prolonged the charter for three years, upon the old establishment; and finding, upon examination, that the Company had really sustained great losses, and its trade considerably declined, they acted with the spirit of a wise commercial commonwealth, by complying with the Company's request. They therefore granted them a new charter for thirty years, on the same terms as the former, on the immediate payment of 2,000,000 of florins, instead of 3,000,000, which they paid before, and the sum of 360,000 florins yearly; which annual payment they were allowed to make either in money or merchandize. In consequence of this indulgence, the stock of the Company rose, in a short time, no less than 19 per cent.

We shall make no apology for mentioning that in this year, and in the 84th of a very useful life, died Mr. John Harrison, the inventor and constructor of the celebrated time-keepers for ascertaining the longitude at sea. This very ingenious and indefatigable man had received, as a reward for his distinguished and important labours, several thousand pounds of the money offered by Parliament for facilitating the means of discovering the longitude.

Dr. Price gives the following account of the progress of the national debt, from 1739 to the year 1775.

		Principal. £.	Interest. £.
Amount of the principal and interest of the national debt before the war, which began in 1740,	—	46,382,650	1,903,961
Amount in 1749, immediately after the war,	—	78,166,906	2,765,608
Increased by the war,	—	31,784,256	861,747
Diminished by the peace from 1748 to 1755,	—	3,089,641	111,590
Amount at the commencement of the war in 1755,		75,077,264	2,654,018
Amount at the end of the war in 1763,	—	146,582,844	4,840,822
Increased by that war,	—	71,505,580	2,186,803
Diminished by the peace in 12 years, from 1763 to 1775,		10,639,793	400,000
Amount at Midsummer 1775	—	135,943,051	4,440,821

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1776 The annual revenues of the Russian empire were, at this time, authentically stated at 17,130,618 roubles; and the expences, including pensions, presents, &c. at 14,208,557.— The value of the rouble is about 10s. sterling.

By an account of the hop duty for this year, its amount appears to be 125,691l. 13s. 7½d.—

The number of ships cleared at the port of Newcastle, from December 31, 1775, to December 31, 1776, was 4,773; of which 4,343 were coasters, and 430 for foreign trade.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce received the royal assent this year.

To discontinue the duties payable on the importation of tallow, hog's lard and grease, for a limited time.

To continue an act for laying a duty of two pennies Scots on all beer and ale brewed for sale in Dundee.

For making a navigable cut or canal from or near Stourbridge, in Worcestershire, to join the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canals, at or near Stourton, in Staffordshire.

To build an iron bridge across the river Severn, from Benthallin, Salop, to the opposite shore at Madeley Wood.

For the better supplying of marines and seamen to serve in his Majesty's ships of war, and on board merchant ships.

[By this act, it was enacted, that all trading ships should be allowed to be navigated with three-fourths of their crew foreigners, till the 25th of March, 1777].

For the better regulation of the pilots conducting ships and vessels into and out of the port of Boston, in Lincolnshire, and for preventing mischiefs by fire in the said haven and harbour.

To remove the danger of fire amongst the ships in the port of Bristol.

For granting a bounty on flax seed, the growth of the Austrian Netherlands, imported into Ireland.

For granting to his Majesty several duties upon coaches and other carriages, also upon indentures, leases, bonds, and other deeds; likewise upon cards, dice, and newspapers; and for raising two millions by annuities and a lottery.

[By the coach act, an additional duty of 20s. per ann. is laid on all coaches, berlins, &c. except hackney coaches; and a duty of 5l. per ann. on stages. The clause of the act of the 20th of George I. exempting persons from paying for more than five carriages, is hereby repealed: and by the new act with respect to stamps, an additional duty of 1s. is laid on all indentures, bonds, &c. heretofore liable to a shilling stamp; an additional duty of 6d. on every pack of playing cards, and 2s. 6d. on every pair of dice made for sale; an additional duty of one-half-penny on every sheet or half sheet of newspaper. Commissioners to provide a new stamp, to denote all the several duties; and after July the fifth of this year, all vellum, &c. liable to the new duty, to be carried to the stamp office, &c. before it is printed or wrote on. Persons counterfeiting stamps, to suffer death as felons. Selling cards to be played with, after the cover has been broken open, 5l. penalty].

For the relief of insolvent debtors and bankrupts, in certain cases.

[By returns made from the different gaols throughout the kingdom, it appears, that there were at this time, upwards of 8,000 debtors waiting to take the benefit of this Act].

For erecting light-houses and land marks in the port of Chester, for the better security of shipping.

For

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For the further encouragement of the whale fishery, carried on from Great Britain and Ireland.

For allowing the exportation of a certain quantity of wheat and other articles to the sugar colonies in America, and to the island of St. Helena and other settlements belonging to the East India Company.

For allowing corn, grain and flour, imported into the port of Preston, to be landed without payment of the duties.

For draining, improving, and preserving certain fen and waste lands near Sandwich.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for the year 1776.

	£.	s.	d.
For 20,752 land forces, including 3,213 invalids, &c. —	659,200	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
For maintaining garrisons, &c. in the Plantations and Africa,	723,432	11	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
British and Irish pay for troops in America, —	42,530	19	4
For the pay of the general and staff officers, &c. —	11,505	7	3
Levy money for augmentation of the British and Irish forces for 1776,	104,136	6	0
For five Hanoverian battalions of foot at Gibraltar and Minorca, from September 1, to December 24, 1775, — —	26,783	15	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto for 1776, — — — —	46,838	1	9
Charge of a regiment of Highlanders, consisting of two battalions,	47,400	12	0
Charge of augmentation to his Majesty's forces to December 24, 1775,	80,984	13	2
Ditto extra saving grants last sessions, — —	7,938	15	0
For the out-pensioners of Chelsea, &c. — —	107,512	10	0
On account of reduced officers of the land forces, &c. —	97,575	12	0
For allowances to certain officers and gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse guards, &c. — — —	850	19	6
For the pensions payable to widows of certain reduced officers,	608	0	0
On account of 12,394 Hessians, for 1776 — —	381,887	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
For 4,300 Brunswickers for ditto, — —	121,475	12	1
For one regiment of Hanau, from March 6, to December 24, being 294 days, — — — —	19,006	19	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
For six regiments of foot from Ireland, and other augmentations, to December 24, 1776, — — — —	137,448	7	0
For the extraordinaries of the army, &c. — —	845,165	14	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
For 28,000 seamen, including 6,665 marines, &c. —	1,456,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, — —	426,904	19	6
Towards building and repairs of ships, &c. —	339,151	0	0
For Greenwich Hospital, — — —	5,000	0	0
Towards the discharge of the navy debt, — —	1,000,000	0	0
For the office of ordnance for the land service —	249,655	18	6
For ditto, not provided for by Parliament in 1775, —	223,171	11	1
On account of making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of North Britain, — — — —	6,996	10	2
For the maintenance of Westminster bridge, — —	2,000	0	0
For repairing, &c. the British forts on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America, —	1,885	4	0
Carried over,	7,186,047	7	4 $\frac{3}{4}$

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		£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,	7,186,047	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
To make good to his Majesty the like sum which has been issued, by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of addresses of Parliament,	—	7,406	0	3
On account of the civil establishment of Nova Scotia,	—	4,346	10	5
Ditto of Georgia,	— — —	3,086	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	— — —	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	— — —	4,063	19	3
Ditto of Senegambia,	— — —	6,336	0	9
Expence of and loss by coinage,	— — —	92,421	15	1
For paying off certain Exchequer bills,	— — —	1,250,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the year 1775,		538,920	4	9
Total of supplies,		9,097,577	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

£. s. d.

WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

Land tax, at 4s.	— — — —	2,000,000	0	0
Duty on malt, &c.	— — — —	750,000	0	0
Surplus in the sinking fund on the 5th of January,	—	17,869	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto, on the 5th of April,	— — —	962,571	16	2
Growing produce of the sinking fund,	— — —	1,837,428	3	10
Gum seneca,	— — — —	2,000	0	0
French prize money,	— — — —	17,000	0	0
By certain savings in the Pay-office,	— — —	23,011	7	0
By the sale of ceded islands,	— — — —	30,000	0	0
Exchequer bills,	— — — —	1,500,000	0	0
Surplus of American revenues	— — — —	2,905	8	2
By certain surplusses remaining in the Exchequer,	— — —	11,444	4	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
By annuities and lottery at 3 per cent.	— — —	2,000,000	0	0
Total Ways and Means,		9,154,230	4	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total Supplies,		9,097,577	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Excess of Provisions,		56,652	6	5 $\frac{1}{4}$

✂ The state of the national debt remains the same as in our last account of it.

A general account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,859	Males,	9,499
Females,	8,421	Females,	9,549
Total,	17,280	Total,	19,048

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On the 10th of February, a bill for enabling the Admiralty to grant letters of marque and reprisal, to the owners or captains of private merchant ships, authorizing them to take and make prize of all vessels with their effects, belonging to any of the inhabitants of the thirteen specified revolted American Colonies, was passed without debate or opposition in the House of Commons. In the House of Lords, it only underwent the trifling alteration of inserting the words, *Letters of Permission* in the place of *Letters of Marque*, the latter being thought applicable only to reprisals on a foreign enemy.

This was a very necessary measure, as every class of mercantile men throughout the kingdom, began to make heavy complaints of the losses they now sustained from the war with America.

The American privateers now extended their cruizes to every part of Europe as well as the West Indies, and they were in general received with an open or clandestine countenance, in all the ports which they entered with their prizes.

At length they grew more bold, and, at this time, infested the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland with a degree of audacity that at once surprised and alarmed the trading part of the kingdom. Their language, appearance, &c. being the same as those of the British subjects, they were enabled to disguise their designs till they were sure of executing them with success. In short, the trade between Great Britain and Ireland was interrupted by them to such a degree, that it became absolutely necessary to establish convoys in the narrow channel which separates the two islands. Nay, so much alarm had the American privateers occasioned, that, to the disgrace of our naval power and the injury of our commercial interest, no small number of foreign vessels, some of which were even French, were at this time freighted by British merchants, for the purpose of obtaining security to their commerce.

The British navy and privateers at length, however, exerted themselves with such activity, that the American cruisers were driven from our coasts, and the losses of the colonies became, by degrees, much greater, and were more severely felt than those of Great Britain. But another power now began to unfold its future designs against us.

France, at this time, manifested an evident disposition to favour the revolt of America. The part she now acted was less circumspect than it had hitherto been; but as her naval preparations were not in such a degree of forwardness as to justify her taking a decisive part, she still continued to dissemble; and as her negotiations with the Americans were not advanced to an absolute determination, she occasionally relaxed in certain points, when she found herself so closely pressed by the British ministers, that an obstinate perseverance would precipitate matters to that conclusion, which she wished to defer to a more favourable moment.

Thus, when a bold American adventurer, of the name of Cunningham, had, in a privateer fitted out at Dunkirk, taken and carried into that port, the English packet from Holland, and sent the mail to the American ministers at Paris, it appeared to be absolutely necessary, in some degree, to discountenance such a flagrant violation of good neighbourhood, as well as of the subsisting treaties between the two nations, and even of the particular marine laws and regulations established in France, in regard to her conduct towards the subjects of other countries. Cunningham and his crew were accordingly committed for some short time, to prison. Yet this appearance of satisfaction was done away by the circumstances which attended it: for the imprisonment of this man was represented to the Americans, as proceeding merely from some informality in his commission, and irregularity in his proceedings, which had brought him to, if not within the verge of piracy, and were too glaring to be entirely passed by with-
out

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1777 out notice. However, he and his crew were not only speedily released from their mock confinement, but he was permitted to purchase, fit out and arm, a much stronger vessel and better sailer than the former, avowedly to continue his capture of British ships.

It was in the same line of policy, that when the French Newfoundland fishery would have been totally intercepted and destroyed in case of an immediate rupture with this country, and that the capture of their seamen would have been more ruinous and irreparable than the loss even of the ships and cargoes, Lord Stormont, the British ambassador at the French court, obtained in that critical situation, an order from the ministers, that all the American privateers, with their prizes, should immediately depart the kingdom. Yet, satisfactory as this compliance, and conclusive as this order appeared, it was combated with such ingenuity, and such artful expedients were practised to defeat its effects, that it was not followed by a single compliance in any one port of France. It, however, answered the purpose for which it was intended, of gaining time, and opening a subject of tedious and indecisive controversy, until the French Newfoundland fleet had arrived in its respective ports.

Indeed, the French minister of the marine and great advocate of the American cause, appears to have been determined, that, whatever charges of duplicity might be brought against his country, they should not rest personally with himself. For, upon the propagation of certain reports which tended to discourage the commerce with the Americans, as if the court would not protect its subjects in conveying the products of America in their vessels, which would accordingly become legal prizes to the English if taken, assured the several chambers of commerce by a public instrument, and in direct contravention of all our navigation laws, that the King was determined to afford the fullest protection to their commerce, and would reclaim all ships which might be taken under that pretext.

Upon the whole, however friendly the language and temporizing professions of France might have been at this time, her conduct was too unequivocal to impose on any. It indeed required no great sagacity to discover, that she had an object in view which was at once calculated, in a very eminent degree, to flatter her ambition and forward her interests. But she yet waited the event of the American campaign, and the completion of naval equipments, which were proceeding with the greatest diligence and in the most public manner at Brest and Toulon, before she would risque the taking an avowed and decisive part.

The supine conduct of the British ministers at this period, can be reconciled to no principle of duty to their country, and can find no better excuse than the certain hope they fondly entertained, that the American campaign would be attended with such a complete and decisive success, as would effectually check all the designs of France, to take a part in the dispute between Great Britain and America.

A transaction of a very extraordinary nature in the East Indies, and which ended in a revolution, and the total subversion of the established government in our principal settlement on the coast of Coromandel, together with several subsequent proceedings relative to it, at the meetings of the directors and proprietors of the East India Company, occasioned their affairs to become again the subject of parliamentary attention.

The Nabob of Arcot had, from the protection and alliance of the East India Company, grown to very great power, and, as it was rather reasonably suspected, to an uncontrouled influence, not only over the natives, but even over the British settlements, in the principal of which he had fixed his residence.

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Whatever foundation there might have been for the supposition, that this Prince possessed an undue influence at Madras, it is certain, that an enterprize which was undertaken by the Company's forces in that presidency, in conjunction with those of the Nabob, afforded too much colour to such an opinion, and unhappily contributed its full share, along with other eastern exorbitancies, deeply to affect our national character both in Europe and Asia. This was the famous expedition to Tanjour, an enterprize which has been heard of in every part of the world, and which has been condemned for its cruelty and injustice wherever it has been heard.

Some pecuniary disputes between the Nabob and the Rajah of Tanjour, furnished a pretext for the former to make war upon the latter, and the powers at Madras were easily prevailed upon to assist their friend of Arcot. The King of Tanjour was not able to withstand the united force of the Company and the Nabob. After defending his capital with the utmost bravery, he was at length subdued and stripped of every thing but life, while his subjects, who were among the most industrious people of India, experienced all the cruelty and rapacity of a Mahometan conquest.

The account of this transaction, with all the circumstances of the conquest, spoil and ruin of a friend and ally, in a manner so unexampled, excited the greatest indignation in the Company, when it arrived in England. Nor were they without apprehensions for the safety of their settlements, when they considered the ascendancy over the councils and actions of their servants, of which the Nabob of Arcot was now so evidently possessed.

The violent deposition of the Rajah of Tanjour, with all its circumstances, was so contrary to the policy of the Company and to the spirit of its orders, that it was immediately determined to restore him to his dominions; but this was a business of no common difficulty. The Company wished to avoid, if possible, a quarrel with the Nabob, nor were they disposed, in the present posture of affairs, to urge matters to an extremity with their servants for what was past. It became necessary, therefore, to send some person out as governor of Madras, who should be invested with full powers to execute this difficult but delicate design, and who possessed a variety of rare qualities equal to the important office.

It was natural therefore for the Company to look up to Lord Pigot, as one calculated in every particular, to give the most happy effect to all the purposes of this commission. His former administration in India had been fortunate, glorious and just: to him the Nabob of Arcot was indebted for his exalted situation: his civil government had been as celebrated as his military exploits, and his private virtues had ever won, as they well deserved, the sincerest regard of all who knew him. To this important task Lord Pigot was appointed.

In the mean time, the Nabob was providing for every possible as well as expected consequence of the Tanjour business. The long interval that elapsed before the arrival of Lord Pigot in his government, afforded a full exercise of his ability in intrigue. Although the part which they had already taken, would necessarily influence the conduct of the English presidency in the measure of securing to him, in perpetuity, the possession of the kingdom of Tanjour, he was determined to take the most effectual method of fixing their interest, by borrowing large sums of money from several members of the council, &c. and mortgaging the revenues of Tanjour to them, as a security both for the principal and a prodigious interest of thirty per cent.

Lord Pigot arrived in his government about the latter end of the year 1775, and succeeded so far in the execution of his commission, as, in spite of the violent opposition he experienced,

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1777 to restore to the Rajah of Tanjour the possession of his hereditary dominions. This measure procured him the mortal enmity of the Nabob, as well as the most determined opposition within his government; so that, in order to execute the commands of the Company, he found himself obliged to take a very strong and bold measure, which was no less than to move for the suspension of two of the council, and which his own casting vote accomplished. By his supreme authority also in the fortrefs, he, for similar reasons, put under an arrest Sir Robert Fletcher, the commander in chief of the forces.

A violent outcry was immediately raised by the secluded members against this act, and being too impatient to wait the decision of the Company on the subject, they formed a secret plot for securing the person of the governor, and effecting a revolution in the settlement, which should give the power entirely into their own hands. This design was shortly after executed with a degree of treachery, that it is not our business to particularise or observe upon. Lord Pigot was hurried away to a place of military confinement, where it appears, that his own extraordinary resolution and natural fortitude alone preserved him from immediate death.

The account of this revolution excited the greatest surprize and indignation in the Company in general: whilst the fate of Lord Pigot was considered with all that resentment and humane apprehension, which the situation of such an amiable and excellent man was calculated to inspire. The presiding faction at Madras and the Nabob of Arcot, were not, however, without their friends: they were not idle on the occasion; and, to the surprize of people in general, the weight of government leaned to their side.

The whole of these transactions being laid before the East India proprietors at their quarterly court, on the 26th of March in this year, a resolution was agreed upon by a very great majority, to recommend to the Court of Directors, to take the most effectual measures for restoring Lord Pigot to the full exercise of the powers vested in him by the Company as governor of Madras, and for enquiring into the conduct of the principal actors in his imprisonment, &c.

In consequence of this resolution, several others were soon after passed in the Court of Directors, by which Lord Pigot was restored to the full exercise of his powers, and his four friends who had been ejected from the council were reinstated. It was also resolved, that seven members of the council, including the commander in chief of the forces, had violently subverted the government by a military force, and that they should not only be suspended from the Company's service, but be cut off from any other means of restoration, than the immediate act of the Directors. A vote of censure was also passed in the Court of Directors, by a casting voice, on Lord Pigot's conduct, as in some degree reprehensible.

But while the instructions were preparing to accompany these resolutions, the friends of the Nabob and his party, assisted by the whole power of government, industriously brought forward three new resolutions; the object of which was, to order Lord Pigot home immediately, to enquire into his conduct, and to recal both his friends and enemies in the council of Madras for the same purpose. These resolutions were carried by a majority of 97; and this decision induced Governor Johnstone to bring the business before the House of Commons.

That gentleman accordingly moved several resolutions; upon which, if carried, he intended to found a bill for the better securing our settlements in the East Indies. These resolutions went to a strong approbation of Lord Pigot's conduct as governor; to a confirmation of those late acts of the Company which had been passed in his favour, or in the condemnation of the faction at Madras; and to annul the resolution for his recal. This motion, however, after a great length and ability, was rejected by a very small majority.

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On the 21st of February, the following memorial was presented by Sir Joseph York to the States General of Holland.

“ Since the commencement of the unnatural rebellion, which has broken out in the English colonies against the legal constitution of the mother country, the under-signed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the King of Great Britain, has had frequent occasions to address himself to your High Mightinesses in the name of his master, to engage them by all motives of national interest, of good neighbourhood, of friendship, and finally of treaties, to put a stop to the clandestine commerce which is carried on between their subjects and the rebels. If the measures which your High Mightinesses have thought proper to take, had been as efficacious as your assurances have been amicable, the under-signed would not now have been under the disagreeable necessity of bringing to the cognizance of your High Mightinesses, facts of the most serious nature.

“ The King hath hitherto borne, with unexampled patience, the irregular conduct of your subjects in their interested commerce at St. Eustatia, as also in America. His Majesty has always flattered himself, that, in giving time to your High Mightinesses to examine to the bottom of this conduct, so irregular and so insufferable, they would have taken the measures necessary to correct the abuse, to restrain their subjects within bounds, and to make them respect the rights and friendship of Great Britain.

“ The complaints which I have orders to make to their High Mightinesses, are founded upon authentic documents annexed to this memorial, where their High Mightinesses will see with astonishment, and, I doubt not, at the same time, with displeasure, that their new governor, Mr. Van Graaf, after having permitted an illicit commerce at St. Eustatia, has so far forgotten his duty, as to connive at the Americans in their hostile equipments, and to permit the seizure of an English vessel, by an American pirate, within cannon shot of that island: and in aggravation of the affront given to the English nation, and to all the powers of Europe, to return from the fortrefs of his government the salute of a rebel flag. In return to the amicable representations made by the governor of the neighbouring island of St. Christopher on these notorious facts, Mr. Van Graaf has answered in a manner the most vague and unsatisfactory, refusing to enter at all into the subject, or into an explanation of the matter with a member of his Majesty's council of St. Christopher's, dispatched by the governor, for that purpose, to St. Eustatia.

“ After exhibiting the documents annexed, nothing remains with me but to add, that the King, who had read them, not with less surprize than indignation, hath ordered me, to expressly demand of your High Mightinesses, a formal disavowal of the salute by Fort Orange, at St. Eustatia, to the rebel ship, the dismissal and immediate recal of Governor Van Graaf, and to declare further, on the part of his Majesty, that until further satisfaction is given, they are not to expect that his Majesty will suffer himself to be amused by mere assurances, or that he will delay one instant to take such measures as he shall think due to the interests and dignity of his crown.

“ (Signed)

JOSEPH YORKE.

“ Given at the Hague, February 21, 1777.”

In answer to the above, the following memorial was delivered, by order of the States General to the court of Great Britain, by the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of their High Mightinesses.

“ SIRE,

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“SIRE,

“It is with the most profound respect, that the under-signed envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary of their High Mightinesses, in consequence of the orders which he has received, has the honour to represent to your Majesty, that the memorial which your ambassador hath presented to their High Mightinesses on the 21st of last month, has touched them very sensibly: that they find themselves obliged to make complaint of the reproaches which are contained in it, as if their High Mightinesses were to be suspected of a will and intent of amusing your Majesty by amicable assurances, which they have falsified by their acts; also of the menacing tone which reigns in that memorial, and appears to their High Mightinesses too highly strained, beyond that which is usually adopted and ought to take place between two sovereign and independent powers, and especially between two neighbouring powers, which have been, during such a length of years, united by the ties of good harmony and mutual friendship.

“Their High Mightinesses trust, that on all occasions, and particularly in respect to the unfortunate troubles of your Majesty's colonies in America, they have held a conduct towards your Majesty, which you had a right to expect from a good neighbour, and a friendly and affectionate power.

“Their High Mightinesses, Sire, hold your Majesty's friendship in the highest estimation, and wish to do every thing in their power, as far as the honour and dignity of their state will permit, to cultivate it still more and more: but they cannot, at the same time, so far restrain themselves, as to disguise the very poignant sensation with which that memorial has impressed them.

“It is alone from the motives of demonstrating to your Majesty every possible regard, and to prove that their High Mightinesses will not neglect any thing, which may serve to investigate properly the truth of the facts, from whence the complaints made to them seem to have arisen, and that they have resolved to institute the most summary enquiry on the subject represented to them.

“To this end their High Mightinesses, passing by the ordinary and usual form in similar cases, requiring a report in writing from their officers and others employed in their colonies, have already dispatched their orders to the commandant of St. Eustatia, to return to the Republic without delay, and, as soon as possible, to give the necessary information of all that has passed within the island of St. Eustatia, and whatever may have come to his knowledge relative to the American colonies and their vessels, during the period of his command, and to lay his conduct, touching that matter, before the eyes of their High Mightinesses.

“The under-signed is charged, by his orders, to bring the information of this resolution to your Majesty, as also that their High Mightinesses make no difficulty of disavowing, in the most express manner, every act or mark of honour which may have been given by their officers or any of their servants, to the vessels of your Majesty's colonies of North America; or that they may give hereafter; so far as those acts or marks of honour may be of such a nature, as that it may be concluded from them, that it is thereby intended, in the least degree, to recognize the independence of those colonies.

“The under-signed is also further charged to inform your Majesty, that their High Mightinesses have, in consequence, given their orders to their governors and councils in the West Indies, and have enjoined them afresh, in the strongest terms, to observe exactly the placards
and

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1777 and orders against the exportation of military stores to the American Colonies of your Majesty, and to see them executed with the utmost rigour.

“ (Signed)

“ Dated London, March 26, 1777.”

WELDEREN.

About this time, there was published at Petersburg an account of the commerce of that city for thirty years and upwards, taken up at the year 1724; of which we have selected only the following, as sufficient to shew the great fluctuation of their trade during that period.

	Roubles.
In the year 1724, the customs of that city produced only	10,335
1726, they exceeded — —	84,695
1741, from particular events, they fell in this year to	11,000
1752, they produced, — —	203,734
1754, the customs amounted to —	768,058
1757, they brought in — —	1,000,713

On the 17th of October in this year, Lieutenant General Burgoyne and his army of 5,600 men, ordnance, stores, camp equipage, &c. surrendered, on convention, prisoners of war to Major General Gates, commander in chief of the American army, at Saratoga.

Congress (which was now removed to York Town, Pennsylvania) came to a resolution, on the 22d of November, not to treat with Great Britain upon any terms, unless the independence of America was first acknowledged: this being totally rejected, they applied to the Court of France for assistance to establish their independence; and, on the 24th of December preliminary articles of a treaty between that country and America were agreed upon at Paris, and sent to Congress on the 27th of the same month.

Returns made from the poor rates to Parliament, stated to be from Easter 1775, to Easter 1776.

	£.	s.	d.
Money raised in England, — —	1,679,585	0	0
Wales, — —	40,731	14	7
Total,	1,720,316	14	7
Money expended on the poor in England, — —	1,523,163	12	7
Wales, — —	33,640	13	8
Total,	1,556,804	6	3
The county rates of England amounted to — —	131,387	18	11
Wales were — —	6,268	11	9
Total,	137,656	10	8

In most of the northern counties the rates are raised separately, and, therefore, are not included in these returns.

Rents, &c.			Litigation.		
£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
78,176	4	0	33,935	18	0
2,120	10	7	1,136	2	8
Total,	80,296	14 7	Total,	35,072	0 8

From

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1777 From a survey lately made by order of the French King, and laid before the supreme council at Paris, established for the improvement of the French West India settlements, it appeared, that the number of slaves in their islands, at this period, were as follows :

	Slaves.
St. Domingo, — —	240,000
Martinico, — —	75,000
Gaudaloupe, — —	64,000
St. Lucia, — —	4,000
Cayenne, — —	3,500
Total,	386,500

To supply the annual deficiency of which number, an annual importation of 20,000 negroes was asserted to be necessary.

In the course of this year, there was imported into London from Newcastle and Sunderland, 692,093 $\frac{1}{4}$ chaldrons of coals, and 7,015 chaldrons of cinders and Scotch coals : 4,792 ships from the same places were also cleared at the custom-house, 4,390 of which were coast-wise, and 402 for foreign ports.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the course of this year.

To enable his Majesty to detain and secure persons charged with high treason in America, or on the seas for piracy.

To enable the Lords of the Admiralty to grant letters of marque to private ships of war or merchant ships, to make reprisals on all ships belonging to the American colonies, in actual rebellion against Great Britain.

For regulating the affairs of the East India Company, as well in Europe as in India, so far as relates to altering the time for the choice of Directors.

To enlarge Mr. Hartley's patent, for his invention of iron plates to prevent the fatal consequences of fires.

For improving the navigation of the river Thames from London-bridge to Staines.

For building a bridge over the river Severn, near Gloucester.

For preventing frauds in combing wool.

For continuing the duty on beer in the town of Burnt Island, in Scotland.

For preventing frauds in the measurement of coals.

To prevent frauds by venders of tea, detrimental to the revenues of excise.

For allowing a drawback on tea exported to Ireland.

To prohibit, for a further limited time, the importation of foreign wrought silks and velvets.

To secure to engravers their property in the engraving branch.

For allowing certain quantities of wheat to be exported to the West Indies.

To prevent the clandestine practice of unshipping goods from on board East India ships.

For securing the duties on soap and rum imported from the colonies.

For allowing the exportation of tobacco pipe clay to the West India Islands.

For settling the hours of labour, and the prices of taking apprentices, in the hat manufactory.

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To allow the callico printers and dyers to employ journeymen who have not served a regular apprenticeship to the said trade.

For a better supply of mariners and seamen for manning the royal navy.

To enlarge the powers of an act, for making a navigable cut or canal, from the river Dee near Chester, to Nantwich and Middlewich, in Cheshire.

For regulating the duties on damaged currants and prunes imported.

For granting certain duties on auctioneers, &c.

For continuing the encouragement of making indigo in the plantations, &c.

For registering the grants of life annuities, and for the better protection of infants against such grants.

To extend the provisions of an act for negotiating promissory notes, and inland bills of exchange, to a certain sum.

[Of the annuity act, and that for restraining the negotiation of bills of exchange, we shall give the following abstracts].

“ The first, after reciting in the preamble, that the pernicious practice of raising money by the sale of life annuities, hath, of late years, greatly increased, and is much promoted by the secrecy with which such transactions are conducted; it is enacted, that a memorial of all deeds, bonds, &c. for granting life annuities, shall, within twenty days of the execution thereof, be enrolled in chancery; which shall contain the date, names of the parties, witnesses, &c. and shall set forth the annual sum or sums to be paid, and the name of the person or persons for whose life or lives the annuity is granted, and the consideration or considerations of granting the same; otherwise every such deed, bond, &c. shall be void.

“ It further enacts, that before judgment shall be entered of record upon any warrant of attorney for recovering any annuity already granted, and before execution shall be sued out, &c. on any judgment already entered, a memorial shall be enrolled as aforesaid; otherwise all the proceedings in the actions to be void.

“ It also enacts, that all future deeds for granting annuities, shall contain the consideration and the names of the parties, in words at length: and that if any part of the consideration shall be returned; or, in case the consideration, or any part of it, is paid in notes, if any of the notes shall not be paid when due, or shall be cancelled or destroyed without being first paid; or if the consideration, or any part of it, is paid in goods; or if any part of the consideration is retained on pretence of answering the future payments of the annuity, or any other pretence; the court may order the deed to be cancelled, and the judgment, if any has been entered, to be vacated.”

It next contains directions relating to the enrollment of memorials and the clerks fees.

“ It then enacts, that all contracts for the purchase of annuities, with any person under twenty-one years of age, shall be void; and that any person who shall procure or solicit any minor to grant an annuity, or to make oath, or give his or her word of honour or solemn promise, that he or she will not plead infancy, or make any other defence against the demand of any such annuity, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment.

“ It also enacts, that solicitors, scriveners, brokers, &c. who shall take more than 10s. per cent. for procuring money for annuities, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment; and that the person or persons who shall have paid or given any sum or sums of money, gratuity or reward, shall be deemed a competent witness or witnesses to prove the same, &c.

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1777 The act for restraining the negotiation of bills, &c. recites, "that by an act of the fifteenth of this present reign, all negotiable promissory notes, &c. issued after the 24th of June, 1775, for less than 20s. were made void, and that all such notes issued before that time were then made payable on demand."

It adds, "that the said acts had been attended with very salutary effects; and supposes, that if the provisions therein contained, were extended to a further sum, (but yet without prejudice to the convenience arising to the public from the negotiation of promissory notes, &c. for the remittance of money in discharge of any balance of account) the good purpose of the said act would be further advanced. The legislature, therefore, have continued the prohibition of notes, &c. for any less sum than 20s.; and enacted, that from and after the 24th of June, 1777, till the first day of January, 1778, all notes for any sum between one and five pounds, shall be liable to payment on demand, whatever be the conditions contained in the said notes, &c."

It also enacts, "that from and after the first day of January, 1778, all negotiable promissory notes, &c. for 20s. and less than 5l. shall be made payable at twenty-one days after date; and each indorsement thereon shall specify the name and place of abode of the person to whose order the money is to be paid; and that the signing of every such note, &c. or any indorsement on it, shall be attested by one subscribing witness at the least."

The following are the forms of promissory notes and drafts, and of indorsements, taken from the schedule annexed to this act.

(N^o. I.)

[Place] [Day] [Month] [Year]
Twenty-one days after date, I promise to pay to A. B. of [Place]
or his order, the sum of , for value received by C. D.

Witness, E. F.

And the indorsement, toties quoties.

[Day] of [Month] [Year]
Pay the contents to G. H. [Place] or his order. A. B.

Witness, J. K.

(N^o. II.)

[Place] [Day] [Month] [Year]
Twenty-one days after date, pay to A. B. of [Place] or his order, the
sum of , value received, as advised by C. D.

To E. F. of

Witness, G. H.

And the indorsement, toties quoties.

[Day] [Month] [Year]
Pay the contents to J. K. of [Place] or his order. A. B.

Witness, L. M.

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year :—				£.	s.	d.
For 45,000 seamen, including 10,129 marines,	—	—	—	2,340,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	—	—	—	400,805	2	10
Towards building and repairing ships, &c.	—	—	—	465,500	0	0
Towards discharging the navy debt,	—	—	—	1,000,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hospital,	—	—	—	4,000	0	0
For 20,734 effective land-forces, &c.	—	—	—	648,009	16	5
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	—	—	—	11,473	18	6½
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the plantations, Africa, &c.	—	—	—	949,720	11	3
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments,	—	—	—	47,178	0	3
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar, &c.	—	—	—	56,074	19	4
For the charge of 12,677 Hessian troops, &c. and subsidy,	—	—	—	336,932	1	6½
For a regiment of foot of Hanau,	—	—	—	18,181	15	6¼
Ditto of Waldeck,	—	—	—	17,370	1	2¾
Ditto of Hessian chasseurs, with the subsidy,	—	—	—	36,728	11	8¼
Ditto of Hanau ditto,	—	—	—	16,326	10	1½
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	—	—	—	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 1,285 Anspachers, including artillery, &c.	—	—	—	39,588	2	4½
For provisions for the foreign troops in America,	—	—	—	41,427	17	7¼
For making good the sum voted last session for the Hessian troops,	—	—	—	6,617	5	3¼
Ditto, for ditto,	—	—	—	3,390	18	4½
Ditto for the Hanau foot,	—	—	—	1,013	16	10
Ditto for foreign troops, for the year 1776,	—	—	—	5,152	12	3½
For foreign artillery, &c.	—	—	—	26,053	7	4
For the Hessian ditto,	—	—	—	13,972	16	0
For the Hanau ditto,	—	—	—	3,383	6	8
For the Waldeck ditto,	—	—	—	403	19	9½
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	—	—	—	105,279	13	9
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	—	—	—	93,616	8	4
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	—	—	—	754	12	1
For pensions to the widows of certain reduced officers,	—	—	—	370	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	—	—	—	1,200,024	1	7¼
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	—	—	—	320,111	18	11
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1776,	—	—	—	272,705	18	1
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	—	—	—	6,997	13	7
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John,	—	—	—	3,000	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	—	—	—	2,816	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	—	—	—	4,596	10	5
Ditto of East Florida,	—	—	—	5,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	—	—	—	5,900	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	—	—	—	5,550	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America,	—	—	—	2,993	5	0
To the trustees of the British Museum,	—	—	—	3,000	0	0
Carried forward,				8,616,919	6	8½

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Brought over,	£. 8,616,919	6	8½
For discharging certain unsatisfied claims relative to the last German war,	41,820	14	5
For the relief of such American civil officers as have suffered from their attachment to his Majesty's government,	—	—	—
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for the expence of convicts on the Thames,	1,879	10	6
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	13,060	2	0
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For printing journals, &c.	600	0	0
To George White, Esq. for expences incurred relative to enquiries made into the state of the poor of this kingdom,	500	0	0
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,600	0	0
Towards discharging certain other Exchequer bills,	1,000,000	0	0
To discharge the arrears and debts owing upon the civil list on January 5, 1777,	618,340	9	6¼

It was also resolved, "That for the better support of his Majesty's household, and of the honour and dignity of the crown, there be granted to his Majesty during his life, out of the aggregate fund, the clear yearly sum of 100,000*l.* to commence from the 5th of June, 1777, over and above the sum of 800,000*l.* granted by an act made in the 1st year of his present Majesty's reign.]

For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1776,	500,000	0	0
To make good the deficiency of certain grants for the service of 1776,	61,288	7	1¾
Ditto of the fund for paying certain annuities,	44,599	13	4½
Ditto in the land-tax,	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	200,000	0	0

Total Supplies,	12,895,543	0	2
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The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
From the sinking fund,	1,939,636	5	9¾
By certain surplusses and revenues in ditto,	295,832	18	6¾
By ditto,	760,363	14	2¼
By annuities and lottery,	5,500,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By surplusses of certain duties remaining in the Exchequer,	3,919	13	7
By ditto,	1,391	0	7
By duties on gum Senegal and gum Arabic, &c.	1,391	0	0
By monies paid into the Exchequer by the executors of the late Lord Holland,	200,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	12,952,534	12	8¾
Supplies granted,	12,895,543	0	2
Excess of provisions,	56,991	12	6¾
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✂ The vote of credit for one million, granted this session, for the future army extras, and expence of, and loss by coinage, is charged in the next aids.

It appears from the above accounts, that the additional public debt funded this year, amounts to five millions; the interest of which, at 4 per cent. per annum, is

	£.	s.	d.
— — — — —	200,000	0	0

Together with the additional annuity of 10s. per cent. per annum, for ten years, which amounts to

— — — — —	25,000	0	0
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Total amount,	225,000	0	0
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This sum (by acts passed in pursuance of several resolutions of May 15, 1777) was raised in the following manner:—

By a tax of one guinea each on all male servants not employed in agriculture, husbandry, or trade,

— — — — —	100,000	0	0
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By additional duties on glass,

— — — — —	45,000	0	0
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By additional stamp duties,

— — — — —	55,000	0	0
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By a duty on auctioneers, and on goods sold by auction,

— — — — —	37,500	0	0
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Total of new taxes,	237,500	0	0
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From whence is to be deducted the annual produce of the plate duty, which was repealed,

— — — — —	12,000	0	0
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Remained,	225,500	0	0
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The number of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 10, 1776, to December 16, 1777, is as follows:

Christened, males	9,338	Buried, males	11,768
— females	8,962	— females	11,566
— — — — —	18,300	— — — — —	23,334

By the bill of mortality for Norwich, for this year, the numbers were,

Christened, Males,	704	Buried, Males,	502
Females,	585	Females,	494
— — — — —	1,289	— — — — —	996

At Whitehaven,—christenings, 237; burials, 207; marriages, 92.

At Whitby,—christenings, 278; burials, 219; marriages, 100.

At Manchester,—christenings, 1,513; burials, 864; marriages, 577.

At Liverpool.—christenings, 1,224; burials, 1760; marriages, 455.

1778 At the commencement of this year, the critical situation of affairs, both foreign and domestic, very powerfully engaged the public attention, and time was pregnant with events that demanded the whole of it. France was now on the eve of throwing off the mask and taking a decided part in the American war. On the thirtieth of January, a treaty of commerce was signed

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1778 signed between that court and America, and on the sixth of February, a treaty of alliance eventual and defensive was concluded, at Paris, between his Most Christian Majesty, Louis the Sixteenth, and the thirteen United States of America: as these treaties eventually effected a revolution, which, in all its circumstances, has not a parallel in the history of the world, we shall insert them at large.

“ Article I. A firm, inviolable, and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship, shall subsist between the Most Christian King, his heirs and successors, and the United States of America, as well as between his Most Christian Majesty's subjects and those of the said States; as also between the people, islands out and inhabitants of all classes, without any exception to persons or places. The conditions mentioned in the present treaty, shall be perpetual and permanent between the Most Christian King, his heirs and successors, and the said United States.

“ II. The Most Christian King and the United States mutually engage, not to grant any particular favour to other nations, respecting commerce and navigation, which shall not be immediately made known to the other party; and such nation shall enjoy that favour gratuitously, if the concession is such, or in granting the same compensation, if the concession is conditional.

“ III. The subjects of the Most Christian King shall not pay, in the ports, harbours, roads, countries, islands, cities, and places of the United States, any greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by whatever name they may be called, than such as the most favoured nation shall pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions, in point of trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port of the said States to another, or in going thither, or in returning from or going to any part of the world whatever, as the said nations may or shall enjoy.

“ The subjects, people, and inhabitants of the said United States, or each of them, shall not pay, in the ports, harbours, roads, islands, cities, and places, within the dominions of his Most Christian Majesty in Europe, any greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by whatever name they may be called, than the most favourite nation are or shall be bound to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions, in point of trade, navigation and commerce, whether in passing from one port to another of the said dominions of the Most Christian King in Europe, or in going thither, or in returning from or going to any part of the world whatever, as the said nations may or shall enjoy.

“ V. In the above exemption is particularly comprised the imposition of 100d. per ton, established in France upon foreign ships: excepting when the ships of the United States shall load with French merchandizes in one port of France for another in the said kingdom, in which case the said ships of the said United States shall discharge the usual rights, so long as the most favourite nations shall be obliged to do the same; nevertheless, the said United States, or any of them, shall be at liberty to establish, whenever they shall think proper, a right equivalent to that in question, in the same case as it is established in the ports of his Most Christian Majesty.

“ VI. The Most Christian King shall use all the means in his power to protect and defend all the ships and effects belonging to the subjects, people, and inhabitants of the said United States, and of each of them which shall be in his ports, harbours, or roads, or in the seas near his territories, countries, isles, cities, and places; and shall use every effort to recover
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1778 restore to the lawful proprietors, their agents or order, all the ships and effects which shall be taken within his jurisdiction; and his Most Christian Majesty's ships of war, or other convoys, sailing under his authority, shall take, on every occasion, under their protection the ships belonging to the subjects, people, and inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, which shall keep the same course and make the same route, and defend the said ships, so long as they shall keep the same course and make the same route, against every attack, force, or violence, in the same manner as they are bound to defend and protect the ships belonging to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty.

" VII. In like manner the said United States, and their ships of war sailing under their authority, shall protect and defend, agreeable to the contents of the preceding article, all the ships and effects belonging to the Most Christian King, and shall use all their efforts to recover and restore the said ships and effects, which shall be taken within the extent of the jurisdiction of the said United States, or either of them.

" VIII. The Most Christian King will employ his endeavours and mediation with the King or Emperor of Morocco or Fez, with the regencies of Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli, or any of them, as well as with every other Prince, State, or Power of the Barbary coast in Africa, and with the subjects of the said King, Emperor, States, and Powers, and each of them, to secure, as fully and effectually as possible, to the advantage, convenience, and security of the said United States, and each of them, as also their subjects, people, and inhabitants, their ships and effects, against violence, insult, attack, or depredation, on the part of the said Barbary Princes and States, or their subjects.

" IX. The subjects, inhabitants, merchants, commanders of ships, masters, and seamen, of the states, provinces, and dominions of the two parties, shall reciprocally refrain from, and avoid fishing in any of the places possessed, or which shall be possessed, by the other party. The subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, shall not fish in the harbours, bays, creeks, roads, and places, which the said United States possess, or shall hereafter possess; and in the same manner the subjects, people, and inhabitants of the said United States, shall not fish in the harbours, bays, creeks, roads, coasts, and places, which his Most Christian Majesty actually possesses, or shall hereafter possess; and if any ship or vessel shall be surprised fishing, in violation of the present treaty, the same ship or vessel and its cargo shall, upon clear proof, be confiscated. Provided the exclusion stipulated in the present article shall stand good only so long as the King and the United States shall not suffer it to be enjoyed by any other nation whatever.

" X. The United States, their citizens and inhabitants, shall never disturb the subjects of the Most Christian King in the enjoyment and exercise of the right of fishing on the banks of Newfoundland, any more than in the unlimited and exclusive enjoyment they possess on that part of the coasts of that island, as specified in the treaty of Utrecht, nor in the rights relative to all and each of the isles which belong to his Most Christian Majesty; the whole conformable to the true sense of the treaties of Utrecht and Paris.

" XI. The subjects and inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, shall not be considered as foreigners in France, and, consequently, shall be exempt from the right of escheatage, or any other such like right, under any name whatever; they may, by will, donation, or otherwise, dispose of their goods, moveables, and fixtures, in favour of whom they shall please; and their heirs, subjects of the said United States, resident in France or elsewhere, shall succeed to them, *ab intestat*, without being obliged to obtain letters of naturalization, and
without

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1778 without being exposed to any molestation or hindrance, under pretence of any rights or prerogatives of provinces, cities, or private persons; and the said heirs, either by particular title, or *ab intestat*, shall be exempt from all right of detraction or other right of that kind, provided that such or the like local rights are not established by the said United States, or any of them. The subjects of the Most Christian King shall enjoy, on their side, in all the dominions of the said States, an entire and perfect reciprocation with respect to the stipulations included in the present article.

“ But it is at the same time agreed, that the contents of this article shall not affect the laws made in France against emigrations, or such as may be made hereafter, such being left in their full force and vigour; the United States, on their side, or any of them, shall be free to make such laws respecting that matter as they shall judge proper.

“ XII. The merchant ships of both parties, which shall be bound to any port, belonging to a power then an enemy of the other ally, and of which the voyage, or nature of its cargo shall give just suspicions, shall be bound to produce, either on the high seas, or in ports and harbours, not only their passports, but also certificates, which shall expressly state, that their cargoes are not of prohibited and contraband wares.

“ XIII. If the contents of the said certificates lead to a discovery, that the ship carries prohibited and contraband merchandizes, consigned to an enemy's port, it shall not be permitted to open the hatches of the said ship, nor any case, chest, trunk, bale, cask or other cases, contained therein, or to displace or remove the least part of the merchandize, whether the ship belongs to the Most Christian King, or to the inhabitants of the United States, until the cargo has been landed in the presence of the officers of the Admiralty, and an inventory taken of them; but they shall not be permitted to sell, exchange, or dispose of the ships or cargoes, in any manner whatever, until a fair and legal enquiry has been made, the contraband declared, and the court of Admiralty shall have pronounced the confiscation by judgment, nevertheless without prejudice of ships or cargoes, which, by virtue of this treaty, shall be considered as free. It shall not be permitted to retain merchandizes, under pretence that they were found among contraband goods, and still less to confiscate them as legal prizes. In case where a part only, and not the whole of the cargo, consists of contraband articles, and that the commander of the ship consents to deliver up to the captor what shall be discovered, then the captain, who shall have made the prize, after having received those articles, shall immediately release the ship, and in no manner prevent it from pursuing its voyage; but in case that the whole of the contraband articles cannot be all taken into the vessel of the captor, then the captain of such vessel shall remain master of his prize, notwithstanding the offer to give up the contraband goods, and conduct the ship into the nearest port, conformably to what is above specified.

“ XIV. It is agreed, on the contrary, that every thing that shall be found embarked by the respective subjects, in ships belonging to the enemies of the other party, or their subjects, shall be confiscated, without regard to their being prohibited or not, in the same manner as if they belonged to the enemy; excepting, however, such effects and merchandizes as had been put on board the said ships before the declaration of war, or even after the said declaration, if they were ignorant of it at the time of loading; so that the merchandizes of the subjects of both parties, whether they be found among contraband goods or otherwise, which, as hath been just mentioned, shall have been put on board a ship belonging to the enemy, before the war, or even after the said declaration, when unknown to them, shall not be, in any manner, subject to confiscation, but shall be faithfully and truly restored, without delay, to the owners
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1778 who shall claim them: it must, however, be understood, that it will not be permitted to carry contraband goods into an enemy's ports. The two contracting parties agree, that after the expiration of two months from the declaration of war, their respective subjects, from what part of the world soever they shall come, shall not be permitted to plead ignorance of the question in this article.

" And in order the more effectually to secure the subjects of the two contracting parties from receiving any prejudice from the ships of war or privateers of either party, orders shall be given to all captains of ships of his Most Christian Majesty and the said United States, and to all their subjects, to avoid offering insult or doing damage to the ships of either party; and whoever shall act contrary to these orders, shall be punished for it, and shall be bound and obliged personally, in their own effects, to repair all such damages and losses.

" XVI. All ships and merchandizes of what nature soever, which shall be taken out of the hands of pirates on the high seas, shall be conducted into some port of the two states, and shall be committed to the care of the officers of the said port, in order that they may be entirely restored to the right owner, as soon as such property shall be fully and clearly proved.

" XVII. The ships of war of his most Christian Majesty, and those of the United States, as well as privateers fitted out by their subjects, shall be at full liberty to conduct where they please such prizes as they shall take from the enemy, without being amenable to the jurisdiction of their admirals or admiralty, or any other power; and the said vessels or prizes, entering into the harbours or ports of his most Christian Majesty, or those of the said United States, shall be neither stopped nor seized, nor shall the officers of such places enquire into the validity of the said prizes, but shall be permitted to depart freely and at full liberty, to such places as directed in the commissions, which the captains of the said ships shall be obliged to produce. And, on the contrary, they shall neither give security nor retreat, in their ports or harbours, to any prizes made on the subjects of his Majesty, or the said United States; and, if such shall be found to enter their ports, through storms or dangers of the sea, they shall be obliged to depart as soon as possible.

" XVIII. Should a ship belonging to either of the two States, or their subjects, run aground, be wrecked, or suffer other damages, upon the coasts belonging to one of the two parties, they shall give all friendly aid and assistance to such as are in danger, and take every method to secure their safe passage, and return to their own country.

" XIX. When the subjects and inhabitants of one of the two parties with their ships, whether men of war, privateers, or merchantmen, shall be forced by foul weather, by the pursuits of pirates or enemies, or by any other urgent necessity, to seek shelter and refuge, to run into and enter some river, bay, road, or port belonging to one of the two parties, they shall be received and treated with humanity and kindness, and shall enjoy all the friendship, protection and assistance, and shall be permitted to procure refreshments, provisions and every thing necessary for their subsistence, for the repairing of their ships, and to enable them to pursue their voyage, paying a reasonable price for every thing; and they shall not be detained in any manner, nor prevented quitting the said ports or roads, but shall be permitted to depart at pleasure, without any obstacle or impediment.

" XX. In order the better to promote the commerce of the two parties, it is agreed, that in case a war should commence between the two said nations, six months shall be allowed, after the declaration of war, to the merchants living in their towns and cities, to collect and transport their merchandize; and, if any part of them shall be stolen or damaged, during the
time

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1778 time above prescribed by either of the two parties, their people or subjects shall be obliged to make full and perfect satisfaction for the same.

“XXI. No subject of the Most Christian King shall take a commission, or letters of marque, to arm any ship or vessel, to act as a privateer against the said United States, or any of them, or against their subjects, people or inhabitants, or against their property, or that of the inhabitants of any of them, from any Prince whatever, with whom the said United States shall be at war. In like manner, no citizen, subject or inhabitant of the said United States, or any of them, shall demand or accept any commission or letters of marque, to arm any ships or vessels, to act against the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, or any of them, or their property, from any Prince or State whatever, with whom his said Majesty may be at war; and if any of the two nations shall take such commissions or letters of marque, they shall be punished as pirates.

“XXII. No foreign privateer, not belonging to some subject of his Most Christian Majesty, or to a citizen of the said United States, which shall have a commission from any Prince or power at war with one of the two nations, shall be permitted to arm their ships in the ports of one of the two parties, nor to sell their prizes, nor to clear their ships, in any manner whatever, of their merchandizes, or any part of their cargo; they shall not even be permitted to purchase any other provisions, than such as are necessary to carry them to the nearest port of the Prince or State of whom they hold their commission.

“XXIII. All and each of the subjects of the Most Christian King, as well as the citizens, people and inhabitants of the said United States, shall be permitted to work their vessels in full liberty and security, without any exception being made thereto, on account of the proprietors of merchandizes on board the said vessels, coming from any port whatever, and destined for some place belonging to a power actually an enemy, or which may become such, of his Most Christian Majesty or the United States. It shall be equally permitted to the subjects and inhabitants above-mentioned, to navigate their ships and merchandizes, and to frequent, with the same liberty and security, the places, ports and havens of the powers, enemies to the two contracting parties, or one of them, without opposition or molestation, and to trade with them, not only directly from ports of the enemy to any neutral port, but also from one port of the enemy to another of the same, whether under the jurisdiction of one or more; and it is stipulated by the present treaty, that all free vessels shall equally enjoy the liberty of trade, and that every thing shall be judged free which is found on board the ships belonging to the subjects of one of the contracting parties, even though the cargo, or part of it, should belong to the enemies of one of them; excepting always, however, all contraband goods. It is equally agreed, that the same liberty shall extend to persons on board such free ships, even though they shall be enemies to one of the two contracting parties, and shall not be taken from the said ships, unless in arms, and actually in the enemy's service.

“XXIV. This free navigation and commerce is extended to all sorts of merchandizes, excepting only such as shall be deemed contraband or prohibited, and under such denomination are comprehended arms, cannon, bombs, with their fuses and other appurtenances, bullets, powder, matches, pikes, swords, lances, darts, halberts, mortars, petards, granades, saltpetre, fusils, balls, bucklers, casques, cuirasses, coats of mail, and other arms of that kind, proper for the defence of soldiers; gun-locks, shoulder-belts, horses and their trappings, and all other instruments of war whatever. The following merchandizes are not to be considered as contraband or prohibited, viz. all sorts of cloths, and other woollen stuffs, linen, silk, cotton,

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1778 or other such matters; all sorts of cloaths, with the materials of which they are usually made; gold or silver, either in specie or otherwise, pewter, iron, latten, copper, brass, coals, and even wheat and barley, and all other sorts of grain and roots; tobacco and all sorts of spices, salted and dried provisions, dried fish, cheese and butter, beer, oil, wine, sugar, and all kinds of salt, and in general, all kinds of provisions necessary for the nourishment of man, and for the support of life; also all sorts of cotton, hemp, linen, pitch, tar, cords, tables, sails, canvas for sails, anchors, parts of anchors, masts, planks, timber and wood of all kinds, and all other things proper for the building and repairing of ships, and other matters whatsoever, which are not in the form of warlike instruments for sea or land, shall not be reputed contraband, much less such as are already prepared for other uses. All the articles above-mentioned are to be comprised among the free articles of merchandize, as well as all the other merchandizes and effects which are not comprised and particularly named in the list of contraband merchandizes; so that they may be transported and conducted in the freest manner, by the subjects of the two contracting parties, into any of the enemy's ports; excepting, however, that such places are not actually besieged, blocked up, or invested.

“ XXV. In order to remove and prevent dissensions and quarrels on either side, it is agreed, that in case one of the two parties shall find themselves engaged in a war, the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects or people of the other ally, shall be provided with marine passports, which shall express the name, property and burden of the ship, as well as the name and place of abode of the master and commander of the said ship, in order that it may from thence appear, that the same ship really and truly belongs to the subjects of one of the two contracting parties. These passports are to be annually renewed, in case the ship returns home in the space of one year. It is also agreed, that the above-mentioned ships, in case they shall be laden, are to be provided not only with passports, but also with certificates, containing the particulars of the cargo, the place from whence the ship came, and a declaration of what contraband goods are on board; which certificate is to be made in the accustomed form, by the officers of the place from whence the ship sailed; and if it be judged necessary or prudent to express in the said passports the persons to whom the merchandize belongs, it must be freely complied with.

“ XXVI. In case any ships of the subjects and inhabitants of one of the two contracting parties should approach the coast of the other, without any intention to enter the port, or, after having entered it, without any intention to unload their cargo, or break bulk, they shall conduct themselves, in that respect, according to the general rules prescribed, or to be prescribed, relative to that matter.

“ XXVII. When any vessel belonging to the said subjects, people, and inhabitants of one of the two parties, shall meet, while sailing along the coast or on the open sea, a ship of war or privateer belonging to the other, the said ship of war or privateer in order to avoid disorder, shall bring such vessel to, and send her boat with two or three on board her, to whom the master or commander of the merchantman shall produce his passport, and prove the property of the vessel; and as soon as such passport shall be produced, the master shall be at liberty to pursue his voyage, without being molested, or in any other manner driven or forced to alter his intended course.

“ XXVIII. It is agreed, that when the merchandizes shall be put on board ships or vessels of one of the two contracting parties, they shall not be subject to be examined again, all such examination and search being to be made before loading, and the prohibited goods being to be stopped

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1778 stopped and seized on shore, before they could be embarked, unless there are strong suspicions or proofs of fraudulent practices : so that no subject of his Most Christian Majesty, or of the United States, can be stopped or molested for that cause by any kind of embargo ; but such subjects of the State who shall presume to vend or sell such merchandizes as are prohibited, shall be duly punished for such infraction of the treaty.

“ XXIX. The two contracting parties mutually grant each other the right of maintaining, in their respective ports, consuls, vice-consuls, agents and commissaries, whose business shall be regulated by a particular convention.

“ XXX. In order further to forward and facilitate the commerce between the subjects of the United States and France, the Most Christian King will allow them in Europe one or more free ports, to which they may bring and sell all the commodities and merchandizes of the Thirteen United States. His Majesty will also grant to the subjects of the said States, the free ports which have been, and are open, in the French islands of America, all which free ports the said subjects of the United States shall enjoy, conformably to the regulations which determine that matter.

“ XXXI. The present treaty shall be ratified by both parties, and the ratifications exchanged within the space of six months, or sooner if may be. In witness of which the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the above articles, both in the French and English language ; nevertheless declaring, that the present treaty was originally digested and settled in the French language, to which they have affixed their hands and seals.

“ Given at Paris the sixth day of the month of February, 1778.

“ C. A. GERARD.

“ B. FRANKLIN.

“ SILAS DEANE.

“ ARTHUR LEE.”

The following is a treaty of alliance between his Most Christian Majesty Louis XVI. and the Thirteen United States of America, concluded at Paris, February 6, 1778.

“ Article I. If war should break out between France and Great Britain during the continuance of the present war between the United States and England, his Majesty and the said United States shall make it a common cause, and aid each other mutually with their good offices, their councils and their forces, according to the exigency of conjunctures, as becomes good and faithful allies.

“ II. The essential and direct end of the present defensive alliance is, to maintain effectually the liberty, sovereignty and independence, absolute and unlimited, of the said United States, as well in matters of government as of commerce.

“ III. The two contracting parties shall each on its own part, and in the manner it may judge most proper, make all the efforts in its power against their common enemy, in order to attain the end proposed.

“ The contracting parties agree, that in case either of them should form any particular enterprize in which the concurrence of the other party may be desired, the party whose concurrence is desired, shall readily and with good faith join to act in concert for that purpose, as far as circumstances and its own particular situation will permit, and in that case, they shall regulate by a particular convention the quality and kind of succour to be furnished, and the time and manner of its being brought into action, as well as the advantages which are to be its compensation.

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" V. If the United States should think fit to attempt the reduction of the British power, remaining in the northern parts of America, or the islands of Bermudas, those countries or islands, in case of success, shall be confederated with, or dependent upon, the said United States.

" VI. The Most Christian King renounces for ever the possession of the islands of Bermudas, as well as of any part of the continent of North America, which before the treaty of Paris, in 1763, or in virtue of that treaty, were acknowledged to belong to the crown of Great Britain, or to the United States, heretofore called British colonies, or which are at this time, or have lately been under the power of the King and crown of Great Britain.

" VII. If his Most Christian Majesty shall think proper to attack any of the islands situated in the Gulph of Mexico, or near that Gulph, which are at present under the power of Great Britain, all the said isles, in case of success, shall appertain to the crown of France.

" VIII. Neither of the two parties shall conclude either truce or peace with Great Britain, without the formal consent of the other first obtained; and they mutually engage not to lay down their arms, until the independence of the United States shall have been formally or tacitly assured by the treaty or treaties that shall terminate the war.

" IX. The contracting parties declare, that, being resolved to fulfil, each on its own part, the clauses and conditions of the present treaty of alliance, according to its own power and circumstances, there shall be no after-claims of compensation, on one side or the other, whatever may be the event of the war.

" X. The Most Christian King and the United States agree, to invite or admit other powers, who may have received injuries from England, to make a common cause with them, and to accede to the present alliance, under such conditions as shall be freely agreed to, and settled between all the parties.

" XI. The two parties guarantee mutually from the present time, and for ever, against all other powers, to wit, The United States to his Most Christian Majesty the present possessions of the crown of France in America, as well as those which it may acquire by the future treaty of peace; and his Most Christian Majesty guarantees on his part to the United States, their liberty, sovereignty and independence, absolute and unlimited, as well in matters of government as commerce, and also their possessions, and the additions or conquests that their confederation may obtain during the war, from any of the dominions now or heretofore possessed by Great Britain in North America, conformable to the fifth and sixth articles above written, the whole of their possessions shall be fixed and assured to the said States, at the moment of the cessation of their present war with England.

" XII. In order to fix more precisely the sense and application of the preceding article, the contracting parties declare, that in case of a rupture between France and England, the reciprocal guarantee declared in the said article shall have its full force and effect the moment such war shall break out; and if such rupture shall not take place, the mutual obligations of the said guarantee shall not commence until the moment of the cessation of the present war between the United States and England, shall have ascertained their possessions.

" XIII. The present treaty shall be ratified on both sides, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of six months, or sooner if possible.

" Done at Paris the sixth day of February, 1778.

" C. A. GERARD, (L. S.)

" B. FRANKLIN, (L. S.)

" SILAS DEANE, (L. S.)

" ARTHUR LEE, (L. S.)

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On the seventeenth of February, the minister introduced a conciliatory scheme to Parliament, which was composed of two bills under the following heads:—A bill for declaring the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exercise of the right of imposing taxes within his Majesty's colonies, provinces and plantations in North America; and a bill to enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners, with sufficient powers to treat, consult and agree upon the means of quieting the disorders subsisting in certain of the colonies, plantations and provinces of North America.

By these bills it was intended to appoint five commissioners, to be endowed with very ample powers, who should be enabled to treat with the Congress by name, as if it were a legal body, and so far to give it authenticity, as to suppose its acts and concessions binding on all America. They were also to be authorised to treat with any of the provincial assemblies upon the constitution they had adopted, and with any individuals in their civil and military capacities, to order a suspension of arms, to suspend the operation of the laws, to grant all sorts of pardons, immunities and rewards, and to restore all the colonies, or any of them, to the form of its ancient constitution, as it stood before the troubles; as well as (in any of those where the King nominated the governors, council, judges and other magistrates,) to nominate such, at their discretion, until his further pleasure should be known.

Should the Americans claim the title of Independent States, in negotiating with the commissioners, the renunciation of it was not to be insisted upon, until the treaty had received its final ratification by the King and Parliament of Great Britain. The commissioners were also to receive instructions to negotiate for some reasonable and moderate contribution towards the common defence of the empire, when brought to a state of re-union; but, that no pretence might remain for not bringing these unhappy differences to a termination, the contribution was not to be insisted upon as an unrelaxing part of the treaty; while the Americans, should they refuse a proposition, of a nature at once so just and reasonable, would yield every claim of future support from that part of the empire, to whose expence they had refused to contribute.

The minister concluded his speech on the occasion with declaring, that the concessions he proposed did not proceed from necessity, but from reason; that Great Britain was by no means disabled from continuing the war; that more troops might be raised if more should be wanted; that the navy was in great power; that the revenue to support them was still flourishing, and that the funds for the service of the current year, would be very shortly provided at a moderate interest.

These bills met with no material opposition; and, after undergoing several alterations, passed the House without a division. By these alterations, the powers of the commissioners were, however, greatly narrowed from the idea of them first held out by the minister: a clause was introduced to repeal the American tea act, passed in the year 1767; the provisions of the bill extended to the West Indies; and some change of expression was made in the title of the bill, which in the first form might have been a preliminary objection to the Americans to enter upon the treaty it was intended to produce.

At length we come to that decisive moment, when France determined to throw off the appearance of friendship, which still subsisted between that country and Great Britain: she now made an open declaration of her intentions relating to America; and, on the thirteenth of March, the French ambassador presented the declaration of his sovereign to the court of London, acknowledging the independence of the North American colonies. This declaration

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“ His Majesty having been informed, by order of the French King, that a treaty of amity and commerce has been signed between the court of France, and certain persons employed by his Majesty’s revolted subjects in North America, has judged it necessary to direct, that a copy of the declaration, delivered by the French ambassador to Lord Viscount Weymouth, be laid before the House of Commons; and, at the same time, to acquaint them, that his Majesty has thought proper, in consequence of this offensive communication on the part of the court of France, to send orders to his ambassador to withdraw from that court.

“ His Majesty is persuaded, that the justice and good faith of his conduct towards foreign powers, and the sincerity of his wishes to preserve the tranquillity of Europe, will be acknowledged by all the world; and his Majesty trusts, that he shall not stand responsible for the disturbance of that tranquillity, if he should find himself called upon to resent so unprovoked and so unjust an aggression on the honour of his crown, and the essential interests of his kingdoms, contrary to the most solemn assurances, subversive of the law of nations, and injurious to the rights of every sovereign power in Europe.

“ His Majesty, relying, with the firmest confidence, on the zealous and affectionate support of his faithful people, is determined to be prepared to exert, if it shall become necessary, all the force and resources of his kingdoms; which, he trusts, will be found adequate to repel every insult and attack, and to maintain and uphold the power and reputation of this country.

“ G. R.”

The declaration, mentioned in the message, was as follows:

“ The under-signed ambassador of his Most Christian Majesty, has received express orders to make the following declaration to the court of London.

“ The United States of North America, who are in full possession of independence, as pronounced by them on the 4th of July, 1776, having proposed to the King to consolidate, by a formal convention, the connection begun to be established between the two nations, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed a treaty of friendship and commerce, designed to serve as a foundation for their mutual good correspondence.

“ His Majesty being determined to cultivate the good understanding subsisting between France and Great Britain, by every means compatible with his dignity and the good of his subjects, thinks it necessary to make his proceeding known to the court of London, and to declare at the same time, that the contracting parties have paid great attention not to stipulate any exclusive advantages in favour of the French nation; and that the United States have reserved the liberty of treating with every nation whatever, upon the same footing of equality and reciprocity.

“ In making this communication to the court of London, the King is firmly persuaded it will find new proofs of his Majesty’s constant and sincere disposition for peace; and that his Britannic Majesty, animated by the same sentiments, will equally avoid every thing that may alter their good harmony; and he will particularly take effectual measures to prevent the commerce between his Majesty’s subjects and the United States of North America from being interrupted, and to cause all the usages, received between commercial nations, to be, in this respect, observed, and all these rules which can be said to subsist between the two crowns of France and Great Britain.

“ In

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“ (Signed,)

“ Dated London, March 13, 1778.

LE M. DE NOAILLES.”

In the committees of both Houses of Parliament, which were at this time employed in examining the state of the nation, it was asserted by the supporters of that measure, that a very large balance was due from the merchants in North America to the merchants in London, which could not be then paid by the usual remittances in goods, &c. in consequence of the war; that since the passing of the several acts for prohibiting the fisheries of the North American colonies, from all trade and commerce with this kingdom, and for making prizes of their ships, &c. the number of vessels belonging to Great Britain and Ireland, taken by ships of war and privateers belonging to the said colonies, amounted to 733; of which, it appeared, that 47 had been released, and 127 retaken; but that the loss on the latter for salvage, interest, on the value of the cargo, and loss of a market, must have been very considerable: that the loss of the remaining 559 vessels, which were carried into port, appeared, from the best mercantile information, to amount, at least, to 2,600,000*l.*: that of 200 ships annually employed in the African trade, before the commencement of the war, whose value, upon an average, was about 9,000*l.* each, there were not then 40 ships employed in that trade, whereby there appeared to be a diminution in that branch of commerce of 160 ships, which, at 9,000*l.* each, amount to a loss of 1,440,000*l.* per annum: that the price of insurance to the West Indies and North America, was increased from two and two and an half, to five per cent. with convoy; but, without convoy and unarmed, the same insurance had been so high as fifteen per cent.; and that, generally, in such circumstances ships could not be insured at all: that the price of seamen's wages was raised from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* per month: that the price of pot-ash was increased from 8*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* per hundred weight: that the price of spermaceti oil was raised from 35*l.* to 70*l.* per ton: that the price of tar was augmented from 7*s.* and 8*s.* to 30*s.* per barrel: that the price of sugars, and all commodities from the West Indies, and divers sorts of naval stores from North America, was greatly enhanced; and that the number of American privateers, of which authentic accounts had been received, amounted to 173; that they carried 2,556 guns, and 13,840 seamen, &c.

On the side of administration it was contended, that the American commerce had suffered more than that of Great Britain, and that, upon a fair examination, a considerable balance would be found in our favour. In support of this position it was said, that the evidence of the merchants on the occasion was extremely partial; that their estimates in point of value were rated too high, and their lists of ships, taken by the enemy, erroneous: that if some branches of commerce had failed, others of greater value were established: that the benefits to be derived from the Southern fishery, and the American share of the Newfoundland fishery, (which was calculated in a duplicate state as a prize to us and a loss to them,) should be very highly rated: that the number of American prizes which had been taken was 904, which, at the moderate valuation of 2,000*l.* each ship and cargo, upon an average, would amount to 1,808,000*l.*; to which, if the value of the fisheries were added, it would appear, that, in the article of mercantile profit and loss, Great Britain was a considerable gainer from the contest between her and America.

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The distresses of Ireland had long been an object of regret, even with many of those who had no particular interest in that country. Without entering into the causes from which they originated, it will be sufficient to observe, that they had grown to their present alarming and deplorable state, under the unhappy consequences of the American war; so that the country became unequal to the support of that great establishment with which it had encumbered itself, when the flourishing state of all other parts of the British empire, had diffused a large portion of prosperity to the Irish people.

The state of affairs became now so notorious, and the consequences were said to be so urgent, that the ministers were at length convinced of the necessity of paying attention to them, and of affording some immediate redress to the grievances under which Ireland, at this time, laboured. Earl Nugent accordingly moved, on the 2d of April, that a committee of the whole House should be appointed to consider of the trade of Ireland. The noble Lord observed, with great truth, that the conduct of Great Britain towards its sister kingdom, had been no less impolitic than unjust, and that the situation of public affairs, called particularly on this country to enter upon a revision of the Irish trade laws.

This motion in favour of Ireland was supported with great cordiality by every part of the House, excepting the representatives of certain manufacturing towns, who thought it necessary to consult their constituents, with whose interests, any change in the Irish trade regulations might interfere, and by which they must be governed in their conduct on the occasion.

It was said, that Ireland was now become the chief dependency of the British crown, and that it particularly behoved this country, under its present circumstances, to admit the Irish nation to the privileges of British citizens; a measure which true political wisdom would long since have adopted. That the restrictions on the Irish trade, had defeated the purpose for which it was intended; and, instead of promoting the staple manufactory of this country, in its woollen fabrics, had produced a direct contrary effect; as the Irish, in order to pay their rents, were under a necessity of disposing of the produce of their lands; and, as they were not allowed to manufacture their wool, to find a market for it wherever they could, that all partial laws and unnatural restraints must ever fail in their design, when opposed to the operation of such a necessity; that France, feeling an irremediable want of the raw material within herself, afforded a ready market, and an exorbitant price for the Irish wool: that the cheapness of living and other circumstances were, however, more than a counterbalance for the excessive price she paid for the raw material, and that she was thereby enabled to arrive at such a state with respect to her woollen manufacture, as, in some degree, to rival us in that very commerce, of which we were, with so much reason, so very jealous.

Lord Nugent's motions were placed under four heads, and directed to the following purposes:

First, That the Irish might be permitted to export directly to the British plantations, or to the settlements on the coast of Africa, in British ships, navigated according to law, all goods, wares and merchandizes, being the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain, legally imported from that kingdom; also foreign certificate goods, under the same condition.

Secondly, That they might be permitted a direct importation into Ireland of all goods, wares and merchandizes, being the produce of any of the British plantations, or of the settlements on the coast of Africa, tobacco only excepted.

Thirdly, That they might also be permitted the direct exportation from Ireland, to all places except Great Britain, of glass manufactured in that kingdom.

Fourthly,

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But although these motions were unanimously agreed to for the present, and the greatest good wishes were expressed for the sister kingdom; nay, although the minister had acknowledged that the Irish complained, with great justice, of the restrictions of our trade laws, and that a relaxation of them would benefit the Irish, and ultimately enrich ourselves,—a very strong opposition grew up against the measure. A general alarm was spread through most of the trading and manufacturing parts of the kingdom. They considered the admittance of Ireland to any participation in trade, as not only destructive, in the most ruinous degree, of their property, but as being equally subversive of their rights. They were as little disposed to consent, that the people of Ireland should cultivate their own manufactures, and dispose of their native commodities at the proper foreign markets, as they were to admit them to any limited degree of commercial participation. In short, the alarm was universal, and took such absolute possession of the public attention, that, for a short time, the American war, and all its brooding events, appear to have been forgotten. The city of London, however, preserved the dignity of its high commercial character, and remained uninfluenced by common opinion, and unmoved by popular clamour. Petitions, therefore, as may be supposed, were presented in great numbers, and strong instructions sent to representatives on the occasion. A curious circumstance, however, occurred in the course of the business, which afforded a remarkable example of the eagerness with which ill-founded popular apprehensions may be sometimes communicated and received:—A motion had been made, and a bill was accordingly brought in, for the importation of sail-cloth from Ireland. This was founded in a mistake; as the liberty of importing Irish sail-cloth was already established by a positive law, of long standing: yet this bill was as violently opposed by petitions from different parts of the kingdom, and as strongly charged with destructive consequences, as the other four bills which it accompanied, and were all framed on new grounds.

On the second reading of the bills, a very powerful opposition appeared against them.—It was stated, on this side, that there could be no objection to admit Ireland to enjoy a free trade equally with ourselves, provided she bore an equal share of the national burthens; but that no tendency to such a provision was contained in the bills before them.—That Ireland was supposed to contain two millions of people, and they were taxed at one million of money, which was ten shillings for each person; but that Great Britain, with six millions of people, was taxed at twelve millions, which was an average payment of forty shillings for each person: it was therefore concluded, that it would be equally impolitic, unreasonable, and unjust to our own people, who had undertaken this heavy burthen on the faith of the navigation laws, and the supposed stability of our commerce, to pass the bills then depending. It was added, that this measure was of too serious a nature, and too complicated in its objects, to be determined at once: that a matter of such magnitude as the overthrowing the whole system of our trade laws, was not to be so readily concluded; and that it demanded the most mature deliberation, the strictest investigation of facts and circumstances, and the fullest consideration of future effects and contingencies.—It was therefore recommended, to refer the general business of Ireland to a committee, whose report might lay the foundation for future mature deliberation; by which means such redress might be afforded to Ireland as the situation of both countries would admit, without prejudice to the trade of Great Britain.

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It was argued, on the other side, in favour of the bills, that they proposed no more than a restoration of what the wisdom of a British Parliament had, on a former occasion, thought proper to bestow on Ireland. The navigation bills passed in the 12th of Charles the Second, extended to Ireland as well as England. A kind of crooked policy had, however, deprived her of the freedom she had enjoyed under that law, and she had ever since remained in a state of oppressive and unnatural restriction. Deprived of every incentive to industry, and shut out almost from every passage to wealth, she had never complained of her condition. She had done her utmost to promote the interests and defend the rights of Great Britain, and her reward had been restriction and commercial bondage of the most cruel nature.

The annual revenue of the two kingdoms, it was said, had been most unjustly drawn into comparison, to prove that Ireland did not pay an adequate proportion of taxes; whereas it was not the number of inhabitants which constituted the specific difference in the article of taxation between two countries, but the distinction of internal opulence, and external advantage; and if the two kingdoms were compared under that idea, it would be found that Ireland was taxed in a quadruple proportion to England. The internal wealth, and external advantage of trade and commerce, are forty times greater in England than in Ireland. There was, therefore, no ratio of proportion in the mode of taxing the latter: she was taxed without enjoying the means of payment. If several of the English excises had been laid in Ireland, it must have been for the sake of oppression, and not production, and for the benefit of the officers, instead of the revenue. Leather, which is taxed in England, would be very trifling in its produce in a country where multitudes of the people never wear shoes. Candles are taxed in England, but what revenue would be derived in Ireland, where there are two hundred thousand houses in which, probably, a candle, such as we tax, was never lighted. Enlarge the means of payment to Ireland, and, in proportion to her ability, she will increase the rate of taxes. An equality of commercial power, it was insisted, could not be established between the two countries; the opulence of the one is a great obstacle to the other: the great disproportion of capital, effectually destroys the possibility of an equality; and as the ability of proceeding would increase in the same proportion, in the progress of the one and of the other, the same proportion of advantage would still remain.—The Irish would be able to follow the English at an equal distance in every stage, both in the outset and in the continuance; but they would never be able to accelerate their motion so as to overtake them.

Counsel and evidence were also heard on different parts of the Irish business; and, in consequence of a compromise between the supporters and opposers of it, which originated rather from the circumstances of the moment, than any apprehensions of failure in the former, it was thought expedient to give up, for the present, most of the advantages that were originally intended, by the bills in question, for Ireland. Some enlargement, however, was given to the linen trade, particularly in the article of checks; and some openings afforded in the African and West India trades, which did not exist before. This measure, therefore, ended rather in being a prelude to future benefit, than producing any great immediate advantage to the people of Ireland.

On the 18th of March, the French King issued an order to seize all British ships in the ports of France; and, on the 27th, an embargo was laid on all French shipping in the river Thames, &c.—About the same time, a treaty of friendship, guarantee, and commerce, was entered into between the crowns of Spain and Portugal.

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1778 On the 13th of April, the Earl of Carlisle, George Johnstone, and William Eden, Esqrs. were appointed, with Lord and General Howe, his Majesty's commissioners in America; and, on the 16th of the same month, they embarked at Portsmouth, to proceed on their commission. On the 9th of May, they arrived at Philadelphia, and immediately forwarded their powers and instructions to Congress; who, on the 17th, answered the commissioners letters by a formal rejection of any overture, until the independence of America was first acknowledged. That power was not (nor could it be, without parliamentary sanction) granted by the commission; so that this embassy, which was sent out too late to do any good, added another and very mortifying article of disgrace to the British government.

Complaints and remonstrances had been long and repeatedly made by the West India merchants and planters to administration, of the weak and exposed state of those islands, which seemed to be left to the mercy of their powerful European neighbours, without a military force for their defence, or a naval squadron for their protection. Jamaica had been very urgent in these applications; the immense British capital necessarily lodged in that island, rendered it no less an object of concern in this country, than its great domestic property did to the owners of the soil. The great increase of troops, and the unusual military preparations in the French and Spanish settlements, afforded sufficient reason to justify the apprehensions from whence these representations originated. Confidential and palliating answers were always given; but the fact really was, that the military and naval force of the empire, then on foot, was so completely swallowed up in the vortex of the American war, that other objects, however important, were necessarily, in a great degree, left to the disposition of fortune.

The island of Dominica was added to the empire of Great Britain by the treaty of Paris, and was an acquisition of considerable importance; while its situation (lying between Martinico and Guadaloupe, and within view of each) added greatly, in time of war, to the value of its possession. This circumstance seems to have been so well understood by government, that the island had been fortified at a very great expence, and large quantities of ordnance and military stores sent thither from England; but the garrison, which consisted but of an hundred men, was totally inadequate to the employing those admirable means of defence which the island afforded.

The situation of Dominica did not escape the attention of the Marquis de Bouillé, governor general of Martinico; who, on the 7th of September, in this year, landed about 2000 men, under the cover of some frigates and privateers, he soon reduced the British governor to a capitulation; which was so liberal, in all its parts, that a mere change of sovereignty was the only alteration in the condition of the inhabitants.

To aggravate the mortification attendant upon such a loss, Admiral Barrington lay at this time no further off than Barbadoes, with two ships of the line and some frigates. His instructions were to remain on that station till further orders; and there he had remained two months, without even being informed that hostilities had commenced between Great Britain and France: but no sooner did he receive advice that an attack was made upon Dominica, than, without waiting for further instructions, he set sail with all possible speed to its assistance; but though he found that island in possession of the French, his appearance checked all immediate attempts upon any other of the British islands.

However, in the month of December following, some reparation was made to Great Britain by the conquest of St. Lucia; which, as it may be well considered in the twofold view

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1778 of a military exploit and a commercial acquisition, added greatly to the honour and advantage of the British empire.

The expedition against that island, it is said, and we believe with great truth, was suggested by a letter written to Lord George Germaine, then secretary of the American department, by a great naval character, at that time unemployed, but who was afterwards called to the service of his country; and, as it fortunately happened, to the preservation of a most important part of the British empire. Of that instructive letter we shall give the following extract:—

“ I had lately the honour to present your lordship with the copy of a letter I thought it my duty to send to the King’s minister before the conclusion of the last war, pointing out the great consequence of retaining some of the conquered islands, particularly Martinico or St. Lucia: and, although at that time I preferred the detention of Martinico, I am now fully convinced that St. Lucia is of more consequence to Great Britain, for the reasons I shall presume to give; viz.

“ Martinico, though in the most flourishing condition at the conquest, has, since the last war, had the dreadful misfortune of being pestered with a species of ants, which have destroyed the country, particularly the windward side, in such a manner, as to make it almost a desert, and ruined all the proprietors in that quarter: this plague still continues; and many planters who used to make three and four hundred hogheads of sugar, now make none. This island, though it has four harbours, none of them are equal to the Carenage of St. Lucia, so secure, or so capable of being defended; which alone is of the utmost importance to a maritime power. Besides, the French, since the last peace, having fortified Mount Garnic, will render the conquest of Martinico more difficult, and take up a longer time; whereas St. Lucia having been greatly cleared and cultivated since the last war, will render the conquest easier, and more healthy for the troops; and, when possessed by his Majesty, be such a check upon the French commerce, as to render Martinico, and their other islands, of little use; as his Majesty’s squadrons stationed at that island, will have it in their power not only to block up every port in Martinico in a few hours, but likewise, (it being equally to the windward with Martinico) the cruizers from St. Lucia can always stretch to windward of all the other islands, and intercept any succours intended for them. Add to this, the infinite consequence of the harbour called the Little Carenage, where the largest ships of war can be careened, be secure during the hurricane months, and always ready to afford a speedy succour to his Majesty’s other islands, and a certain security to the southern islands of St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, &c. &c. which, at present, are greatly liable to depredations from the islands of Martinico and St. Lucia. The latter island being in our hands, will likewise put Martinico in the same predicament as Dominica is at present, viz. between two islands of an enemy; and, if attacked, a speedy succour, in a few hours, might be sent from St. Lucia; whereas, at present, whatever succour might be necessary to defend Dominica, if attacked, must come from Antigua, an island far to leeward; and, in all probability, the island would fall before such succour could arrive.

“ The place for careening and refitting his Majesty’s ships in those seas, and the station of the admiral who commands them, being at Antigua, an island without wood or water, whose harbour is small, and incapable of receiving large ships of war, and to the leeward of all the enemy’s islands, must be extremely detrimental to his Majesty’s and the public service, during a French war, must give the enemy great advantage, and alone points out the necessity of taking either Martinico or St. Lucia.

“ That

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“ That Great Britain has at this juncture a sufficient force to effect an object so desirable, I shall endeavour to prove: for though the war we are unhappily engaged in with the rebellious Americans, has not, as yet reduced them to obedience, yet it has given Great Britain a veteran fleet and a veteran army, capable of undertaking any enterprize, either in America or the West Indies: and as the season for an army to act in America, is at a time when it would be improper to act in the West Indies; so, the season to act in the West Indies, is at a time when they should not act in America, viz. from November to June: if, therefore, part of the army now in America, was detached in November or December, attended with twelve or fourteen ships of the line, as many frigates, and some bomb vessels, with orders to rendezvous at Barbadoes, they, in all probability, would be enabled to put his Majesty's commands into execution at the most proper and healthy season; more especially, as the enemy could not possibly know what number of ships or troops were sent on that enterprize, time enough to prevent its succeeding. And as there is not a doubt but his Majesty's admiral cruizing off Ushant will detach a sufficient number of his ships from his squadron to the West Indies, should a part of the British fleet escape his vigilance, and attempt to succour their West India islands.

“ Should this enterprize be undertaken, I must humbly beg leave to represent, whether it will not be proper to direct, what sort of capitulation the admiral and general should allow the inhabitants: for want of such instructions and proper information, the French conquered islands escaped a duty they should certainly have paid; and his Majesty, at this hour, is deprived of a considerable revenue justly his due.

“ When the island of Martinico offered to capitulate, I sent for several of the planters belonging to the British islands, who then attended the fleet to be present at the siege, to desire their assistance in penning an article that might make the French islands pay more duty than those of the English: the article relative to the clayed sugar, was what they unanimously offered me; and as all the sugar of Martinico was clayed, I concluded his Majesty would receive a considerable sum more than what the English islands paid: but, some time after, hearing that the British islands paid $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the export of their commodities, I was extremely displeased with the gentlemen belonging to the British islands for not acquainting me with their paying that duty, of which I was totally ignorant. Other admirals and generals may be the same, unless properly cautioned.

“ If the inhabitants be allowed to keep their lands, upon capitulation, should any but those really upon the spot have that indulgence; and those, only the lands then actually cleared? all other lands whatever to belong to the crown, as likewise one or two miles round the Carénage, in order to erect fortifications, a dock-yard, and to build a town, the quit-rents of which might bring in a considerable revenue; as there cannot be a doubt but inhabitants would flock from all the other islands, to inhabit a place of such security.

“ Should his Majesty retain this island, I humbly submit, whether, when the lands are sold, it will not be of great advantage towards peopling the island, to have a considerable quantity of land in each parish allotted to ten-acre men, under the penalty of forfeiting it to the crown, should it ever be converted to any other use than provision ground. This will always keep a considerable number of white men on the island, and is the reason why Barbadoes has more inhabitants than all the other islands.”

In the latter part of this year, the merchants, owners of ships, and exchange insurers of the towns of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Dordrecht, presented three memorials to the States-

General

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1778 General of the United Provinces, relating to the seizure of their ships, &c. by those of Great Britain : of these memorials we give the substance, as follows :—

“ That, very lately, a considerable number of ships belonging to the inhabitants of these states, and bound for France, have been stopped at sea, either by the ships of the royal marine of England, or by commissioned ships of the same nation, and afterwards carried into the ports of Great Britain, where they continue to be detained, notwithstanding the bare inspection of the consignments, and other papers found on board the above ships, would sufficiently shew that they were not laden with any sort of merchandize under the denomination of contraband goods, specified by the third article of the marine treaty, concluded in the month of December, 1674, between the court of Great Britain and this republic.

“ That this conduct of the British nation, (the flagrant injustice of which might be very easily proved by an appeal to the law of nations, if it be not already evident, as well by the aforesaid treaty, as by the explanatory convention of 1675) will infallibly accelerate the entire ruin of the commerce and navigation of the United Provinces, if not timely and efficaciously prevented.

“ Notwithstanding the many arguments that might be urged, your memorialists will not trouble your High Mightinesses with all the reasons they have to allege in proof that the destruction of our commerce and navigation must follow, as the unavoidable consequence of the unjust proceedings of the English, our neighbours, of which there is no occasion of any further proof, it having already been fully represented to your High Mightinesses.

“ Your memorialists, therefore, only assume the liberty of observing, in very few words, that by the seizure of their ships, although they may afterwards be released, even with indemnity, the necessary delays in such cases are yet highly prejudicial, and totally ruinous to the merchants of these provinces.

“ That, during the detention of the merchandize, the commodities are exposed to the injury of the fall of markets ; and the merchants are, besides, in that interval, deprived of the opportunity of furnishing themselves, in return, with such goods as they intended, when the first cargoes arrived at their destined ports.

“ In short, the Dutch ships employed for the transportation of merchandize to France, and elsewhere, being detained, will, without doubt, (the result of such proceedings out of the question) occasion fewer numbers to be hired in such service for the future.

“ That this seizure and detention are not only in themselves sufficient entirely to ruin our commerce and navigation, but that this ruin will be more rapidly brought on, whenever it shall please the English nation to make a second stride of injustice, and having seized the ships bound for our French merchants, or from France to this state, they have only to declare them legal prizes.

“ That this prospect is still more deplorable, when your memorialists reflect on the regulation given by his Christian Majesty, on the 26th of July last, concerning the navigation of neutral ships ; because, although that monarch therein forbids the stoppage and seizure of neutral ships, bound to or from an enemy's port, he nevertheless reserves to himself a right of revoking that edict, in case any foreign power should not agree to the same regulation respecting neutral ships. From hence it necessarily results, that, if the English continue to detain and seize our ships coming from France, or going thereto, we may expect the same treatment from the French, with regard to our ships coming from, or going to Great Britain ; and, by these

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1778 these means, and to the total ruin of these states, they will be deprived of the benefits of commerce and navigation with both countries."

The remonstrance made to the court of Great Britain by the States-General, in consequence of these memorials, was answered by Sir Joseph Yorke; who, in a mild, but spirited manner, declared, that the interruption given to the commerce of Holland was never exercised but when the subjects of that republic were carrying warlike and naval stores to the enemies of Great Britain.

It would be inexcusable in the historian of any part of the present period, to pass by unnoticed the event of Lord Chatham's death, which happened on the 11th of May, in this year; and it would ill become us not to offer our tribute of sincere veneration for his illustrious character, as it was during his glorious administration that commerce was first made to flourish in the midst of war.

The produce of the coach revenue for 1778, amounted to 117,000*l.* which proves that 23,000 coaches then paid duty.

It appears, that during the course of this year, 4,425 ships cleared from Newcastle; of which 4,140 were coasters, and 285 destined for foreign ports.

The following is an authentic account of the number of ships which have been employed from England in the whale-fishery, at Davis's Straits and the Greenland seas, from the year 1755, to 1778 inclusive.

<i>Years.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Years.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>
1755	—	66	1767	—	39
1756	—	67	1768	—	41
1757	—	55	1769	—	44
1758	—	52	1770	—	50
1759	—	34	1771	—	50
1760	—	40	1772	—	48
1761	—	31	1773	—	55
1762	—	28	1774	—	65
1763	—	30	1775	—	96
1764	—	32	1776	—	91
1765	—	33	1777	—	77
1766	—	35	1778	—	71

☞ A bounty of 30*s.* per ton was given for the two last years.

The following is also a correct statement of the number of ships employed by Holland in the whale-fishery, from the year 1770, to 1778 inclusive.

<i>Years.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Years.</i>		<i>Ships.</i>
1770	—	150	1775	—	129
1771	—	150	1776	—	123
1772	—	131	1777	—	116
1773	—	134	1778	—	111
1774	—	130	———— 1,174 In all.		

By which it appears, upon a comparative view of these last nine years, that the number of ships employed by the Hollanders in this important branch of commerce, exceeded that of the English nearly in the proportion as two is to one.

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The following are authentic extracts from the Corn Register, containing an account of all corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland, for eight years, viz. from 1771, to 1778.

EXPORTED.

1771. ENGLAND.	<i>British</i> £rs.	<i>Foreign</i> £rs.
Wheat and Flour,	10,089	—
Barley and Malt,	31,166	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	23,364	—
Beans, —	13,345	—
Peas, —	3,701	—
SCOTLAND.		
Barley and Malt,	203	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	11,869	—
Beans, —	3	—
Peas, —	3	—
Barley and Bear,	2,829	—
Bear and Meal,	18	—

IMPORTED.

1771. ENGLAND.	Quarters.
Wheat and Flour,	2,509
Rye, —	2,179
Barley and Malt,	228
Oats and Oatmeal,	198,072
Beans, —	67
Peas, —	64
Indian corn, —	3
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	2
Oats and Oatmeal,	14,255

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 6,170l. 7s. 6d. There were no bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland this year.—The duties on corn imported into England, amounted to 13,170l. 2s. 1d.; and in Scotland, to 547l. 8s. 11d.

[When foreign grain is imported, and not sold, it is, by act of Parliament, suffered to be warehoused, without paying duty; and if exported again, it is here arranged under the title of *Foreign*, to distinguish it from *British*.]

EXPORTED.

1772. ENGLAND.	<i>British</i> £rs.	<i>Foreign</i> £rs.
Wheat and Flour,	6,959	—
Barley and Malt,	13,789	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	23,511	—
Beans, —	13,321	—
Peas, —	3,775	—
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	87	—
Barley and Bear,	242	—

IMPORTED.

1772. ENGLAND.	Quarters.
Wheat and Flour,	23,134
Rye, —	4,799
Barley and Malt,	2,107
Oats and Oatmeal,	70,542
Beans, —	469
Peas, —	17
Indian corn, —	3
Buck Wheat, —	1
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	2,340
Barley and Malt,	961
Oats and Oatmeal,	36,277
Peas, —	4
Buck Wheat, —	1

There were no bounties, &c. paid for corn exported either from England or Scotland this year.—The duties received on grain imported into England, amounted to 2,393l. 6s. 10d. and in Scotland, to 1,372l. 14s. 11d.

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EXPORTED.

1773.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat and Flour,	7,637	—
Barley and Malt,	2,445	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	18,671	—
Beans, —	10,733	—
Peas, —	4,430	—
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	106	—
Beans, —	18	—
Barley and Bear,	30	—

IMPORTED.

1773.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	50,312
Rye, —	9,253
Barley and Malt,	51,221
Oats and Oatmeal,	234,366
Beans, —	49,858
Peas, —	3,254
Indian Corn,	6,322
Buck Wheat,	53
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	6,545
Rye, —	2
Oats and Oatmeal,	95,088
Beans, —	4,002
Peas, —	4,002
Barley and Bear,	12,695

There were no bounties or drawbacks paid on the exportation, nor any duties received on the importation of grain, in this year, for either England or Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1774.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat and Flour,	15,171	757
Rye, —	1,434	826
Barley and Malt,	2,416	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	16,286	25
Beans, —	9,443	797
Peas, —	3,211	107
Indian Corn,	—	1,880
Buck Wheat,	—	50
SCOTLAND.		
Oats and Oatmeal,	122	—
Beans, —	9	—
Barley and Bear,	495	—

IMPORTED.

1774.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	269,235
Rye, —	41,427
Barley and Malt,	155,148
Oats and Oatmeal,	312,908
Beans, —	16,401
Peas, —	2,780
Indian Corn,	5,945
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	19,914
Oats and Oatmeal,	86,591
Beans, —	2,505
Peas, —	2,705
Barley and Bear,	16,360
Buck Wheat,	4

The amount of the bounties and drawbacks paid, in this year, upon the exportation of grain from England, was 5,961l. 12s. : and upon that from Scotland, to 61l. 11s. 10d.

The duties received upon grain imported into England, amounted to 12,379l. 4s. 3d. : and upon that imported into Scotland, to 1,336l. 11s. 8d.

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EXPORTED.

1775.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat and Flour,	28,348	62,649
Rye, —	2,471	251
Barley and Malt,	45,454	5,940
Oats and Oatmeal,	22,593	3,773
Beans, —	14,075	343
Peas, —	4,717	212
Indian Corn,	—	4,323
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	40	—
Barley and Malt,	20	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	119	—
Beans, —	2	—

IMPORTED.

1775.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	544,641
Rye, —	33,574
Barley and Malt,	126,332
Oats and Oatmeal,	283,827
Beans, —	29,862
Peas, —	11,275
Indian Corn,	9,638
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	16,347
Barley and Malt,	13,119
Oats and Oatmeal,	101,115
Beans, —	1,657
Peas, —	1,658

The bounties paid, in this year, upon grain exported from England, amounted to the sum of 7,842l. 10s. 11d.: and the total of the drawbacks was 1,798l. 16s. 8d.

There were no bounties nor drawbacks paid, in this year, upon the grain exported from Scotland.

The amount of the duties received, in 1775, upon the grain imported into England, was 18,442l. 18s. 2d.: and 1,355l. 1s. 5d. was the amount of the duty received upon that imported into Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1776.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat and Flour,	174,940	32,467
Rye, —	10,369	630
Barley and Malt,	129,104	2,160
Oats and Oatmeal,	21,936	8,686
Beans, —	33,338	7,006
Peas, —	6,562	8,043
Indian Corn,	—	1,957
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	3,247	—
Barley and Malt,	422	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	4,365	—
Beans, —	543	—
Peas, —	543	—
Barley and Bear,	4,428	—

IMPORTED.

1776.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	20,148
Rye, —	3,415
Barley and Malt,	8,020
Oats and Oatmeal,	373,707
Beans, —	19,055
Peas, —	19,776
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	430
Barley and Malt,	479
Oats and Oatmeal,	4,859
Peas —	12

The amount of the bounties paid, in 1776, on the grain exported from England, was 50,925l. 7s. 2d.; and the drawbacks were 786l. 8s. The bounties paid upon the exportation of grain from Scotland, amounted to 1,322l. 13s. 9d.

The whole amount of the duties received on the grain imported into England, in the course of this year, was 3,658l. 5s. 5d.; and on that to Scotland, was 30l. 12s. 7d.

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EXPORTED.

1777.	British Qrs.	Foreign Qrs.
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	79,120	5,914
Rye, —	719	227
Barley and Malt,	132,513	479
Oats and Oatmeal,	16,874	12,507
Beans, —	22,449	7,492
Peas, —	6,629	6,742
Indian Corn,	—	8
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	2,652	—
Barley and Malt,	3,645	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	7,233	—
Beans, —	422	—
Peas, —	422	—
Barley and Bear,	6,088	—

The bounties paid, in 1777, on the grain exported from England, amounted to 43,250l. and 7d.; and the amount of the drawbacks, for the same year, was 102l. 1s. 10d.; and the amount of the bounties upon that exported from Scotland, was 2,426l. 15s. 10d.

The duties received, in this year, upon grain imported into England, 8,835l. 13s. 9d.; and upon that imported into Scotland, 14s. 9d.

EXPORTED.

1778.	British Qrs.	Foreign Qrs.
ENGLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	124,698	13,077
Rye, —	1,689	17
Barley and Malt,	100,820	1,391
Oats and Oatmeal,	20,810	8,043
Beans, —	17,787	3,962
Peas, —	9,399	6,221
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat and Flour,	3,295	—
Barley and Malt,	924	—
Oats and Oatmeal,	27,690	—
Beans, —	653	—
Peas, —	653	—
Barley and Bear,	795	—

The bounties paid, in this year, upon the grain exported from England, amounted to 40,101l. 16s. 3d.; and 224l. 8s. 6d. was the amount of the drawbacks, during the same period: and the amount of the bounties upon that exported from Scotland, was 3,704l. 11s. 6d.

The whole of the duties received, in 1778, upon the importation of grain to England, was 4,890l. 5s. 7d.; and upon that imported into Scotland, 14l. 3s. 9d.

IMPORTED.

1777.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	233,069
Rye, —	18,454
Barley and Malt,	7,981
Oats and Oatmeal,	366,155
Beans, —	35,127
Peas, —	28,702
Buck Wheat,	10
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	254
Oats and Oatmeal,	291

IMPORTED.

1778.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat and Flour,	106,394
Rye, —	9,327
Barley and Malt,	42,514
Oats and Oatmeal,	199,680
Beans, —	30,165
Peas, —	27,768
SCOTLAND.	
Barley and Malt,	200
Oats and Oatmeal,	1,490

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The following is an account of the average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for eight years, from the commencement of the corn register act in the year 1770.

	<i>Wheat.</i>		<i>Rye.</i>		<i>Barley.</i>		<i>Oats.</i>		<i>Beans.</i>	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1771	5	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1772	6	4	4	7	3	2	2	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	9
1773	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	2	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1774	6	7	4	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1775	6	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	3	2	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	7
1776	4	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
1777	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	6	2	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
1778	5	3	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	10	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average of the eight years,	5	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	1	2	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	8

The prices of the finest and coarsest sorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows, viz.

Per bushel, Wheat, 6d. Rye, 3d. Barley, 3d. Oats, 3d. Beans, 6d.

The quantity of gold coin brought into the mint from Great Britain and Ireland, by the proclamations in 1773, 1774, and 1776, was as follows:

	£.	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
By the first proclamation,	3,806,435	7	2	deficient more than 6 grains in a guinea.
By the second ditto,	4,876,171	18	3	deficient between 3 and 4 grains.
By the third ditto,	6,880,986	5	3	deficient between 1 and 3 grains.

Total of gold coin called in, 15,563,593 10 8

The expence attending the calling in, re-coinage, &c. of which was, viz.—

	£.	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Expence to the Bank for melting,	—	—	—
Deficiency in melting,	—	—	—
Interest of money advanced to the holders of gold coin,	—	—	—
To the master of the mint, for the charge of recoinage, &c.	115,459	12	9
To certain persons appointed in several counties to take in and exchange the gold coin, and for other charges and expences,	72,476	8	0
Total expence of calling in the light gold coin,	754,019	19	9

N. B. The loss from the deficiency in the coin brought in by the first proclamation, (amounting nearly to 300,000l.) was thrown on the holders of the coin, and therefore could not be included in this account.

In the course of this year, a trial of the pyx of all the monies coined in the Tower since Midsummer 1774, was made at Westminster, before the lords of the privy council; when the gold monies, amounting to above sixteen millions of pounds sterling, were reported to be perfectly agreeable in firmness to the standard trial plates kept in the Exchequer for that service.—

It

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1778 It appeared also, that twenty millions and an half of guineas and half-guineas had been coined in his Majesty's mint since the beginning of 1772.

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the course of this year.

To allow the exportation of a certain quantity of corn, peas and biscuit, to Newfoundland, for a limited time.

For the benefit of captors of prizes from the enemy.

To enable his Majesty to appoint commissioners, with sufficient powers, to treat and agree upon the means of quieting the disturbances now subsisting in certain of the American colonies.

To declare the intentions of the Parliament of Great Britain, concerning the exercise of imposing taxes of the American colonies.

To repeal an act, that imposed a duty on tea imported from Great Britain into any of the American colonies.

To repeal an act for regulating the government of Massachuset's Bay.

For the more effectually preventing the forgery of acceptances of bills of exchange, or number of principal sums of acceptable receipts, for notes, bills, &c.

[This act declares, "that if any person shall falsely make, alter, forge, or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly act or assist in the false making, altering, forging, or counterfeiting any acceptance of any bill of exchange, or the number or principal sum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other security for payment of money, or any warrant or order for payment of money or delivery of goods, with intention to defraud any corporation whatsoever; or shall utter or publish as true, any false, altered, forged, or counterfeited acceptances of any bill of exchange, or accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other security for payment of money, or warrant or order for payment of money or delivery of goods, with intention to defraud any corporation whatsoever, knowing the same to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited; every such person, being lawfully convicted thereof, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall suffer death as a felon without benefit of clergy."]

For enlarging the pier and harbour of Scarborough: and also several navigable bills.

For laying a tax on all inhabited houses, &c.

For laying additional duties on French and other wines imported into this kingdom.

To repeal such part of an act, as relates to the manner of discharging bonds given on the exportation of goods to foreign parts.

To prevent the clandestine conveyance of sugars from the American colonies.

For the relief of insolvent debtors.

For allowing the exportation of certain enumerated goods directly from Ireland, to any of the British plantations in America, or any of the British settlements on the coast of Africa.

To allow the free importation of cotton yarn, manufactured in Ireland, into any of the British ports.

For regulating lottery offices, &c.

The principal clauses in this bill, are as follows:

"To oblige every lottery-office keeper to take out a licence, at the expence of 50l. and give security not to infringe any part of the act.

"That

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“ That no person shall dispose of any part of a ticket in any smaller share or proportion than a sixteenth, on 50*l.* penalty.

“ That any person selling goods, wares, or other merchandize, or who shall offer any sum or sums of money, upon any chance or event whatsoever, relating to the drawing of any ticket, shall be liable to a penalty of 20*l.*

“ To enable the commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury to establish an office;—all shares to be stamped at that office;—the original tickets from which such shares are to be taken, to be kept at that office, till a certain time after drawing;—books of entry to be regularly kept;—persons carrying shares to be stamped to pay a small sum specified in the act;—penalties for persons selling shares not stamped; and a clause for punishing persons who shall forge the stamp of any ticket.”

The following acts of Parliament of Ireland also received the royal assent in the course of this year.

For continuing an act for the further encouragement of tillage.

For the further encouragement of the whale fishery carried on from Ireland.

For the relief of insolvent debtors.

For preventing the cutting or destroying of plain, stained, or printed linens, cottons, lawns, or muslins, or other manufactured goods.

For regulating the price and assize of bread, preventing frauds and impositions in the sale of flour, meal, beer, ale, potatoes, butcher's meat, and other articles sold by weight or measure in the county of Dublin.

To amend and continue an act for better regulating the baking trade in the city of Dublin, and for other purposes.

To explain and amend the acts made for the encouragement of the fisheries of that kingdom.

For encouraging the planting of timber trees.

To oblige ships more effectually to perform quarantine, and for better preventing the plague being brought from foreign parts into Ireland, and to hinder the spreading of infection, &c.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

			£.	s.	d.
For 60,000 seamen, including 11,829 marines,	—		3,120,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	—		389,200	16	0
Towards building and repairing ships of war,	—		488,695	0	0
Towards discharging the navy debt,	—	—	1,000,000	0	0
On account of Greenwich Hospital,	—	—	4,000	0	0
For 20,057 effective land-forces, &c.	—	—	634,240	3	11
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	—	—	11,473	18	6½
For maintaining forces and garrisons in the plantations, Africa, &c.	—	—	960,843	18	9
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishments,	—	—	52,923	1	6
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	—	—	56,074	19	4½
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy,	—	—	367,203	9	10
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau,	—	—	35,441	19	9½
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck,	—	—	17,370	8	2¾
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	—	—	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 1,241 troops of Brandenburg Anspach,	—	—	34,007	2	11
For provisions for the foreign troops serving in America,	—	—	47,160	13	3

Carried forward, 7,312,583 7 9¼

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	7,312,583	7	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
For making good the sum voted last session for the Hanau troops,	1,675	17	1
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,379	10	8
For the charge of several augmentations of the British forces, from their several commencements to the 24th of December,	286,632	14	6
For the charge of certain army augmentations, &c.	18,895	5	2
For ditto,	80,319	14	1
For ditto of a corps of infantry of Anhalt Zerbst, &c.	18,071	12	0
For defraying the charge of the militia, embodied from March 26, 1778, to the 24th of December following,	402,622	9	0
For additional cloathing for ditto,	37,559	7	6
For three regiments of fencibles to be raised in North Britain, from April 25, 1778, to the 24th of December following,	45,608	2	0
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	105,431	15	5
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	90,939	15	0
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	712	0	5
For pensions to the widows of certain reduced officers,	238	0	0
Towards defraying the extraordinaries of the army, &c.	1,469,923	1	4
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	382,816	2	8
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1777,	300,483	13	10
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,998	12	5
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John,	3,200	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,866	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,701	10	8
Ditto of East Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	4,900	0	0
Ditto of Senegambia,	5,550	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America,	2,372	0	0
For defraying the extra expences of calling in and recoinning the deficient coin of the kingdom,	105,227	8	3
To Mr. Edward Moore, for thirteen years employment in compiling a general index to the journals of the House of Commons,	6,400	0	0
To the Rev. Mr. Forster for eight years ditto,	3,000	0	0
To the Rev. Dr. Roger Flaxman for nine years ditto,	3,000	0	0
To Mr. Cunningham, in part of his payment for compiling a general index, &c.	500	0	0
To make good the deficiency on the 5th of July, 1777, of the fund established for paying certain annuities, &c.	43,621	10	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	19,100	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	56,680	2	6
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	9,075	3	11
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
Carried over,	10,877,004	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,877,004	16	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
For ditto, to be charged on the first aids granted in this year,	1,000,000	0	0
For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1777,	480,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same,	38,493	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deficiency in the land-tax,	252,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	14,347,497	18	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	6,480,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By certain surplusses of the sinking fund,	703,790	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
By ditto,	2,296,209	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
By ditto,	4,976	17	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
By certain deductions out of salaries, pensions, &c.	46,825	0	0
From the surplus of the two-sevenths of excise, &c.	31,154	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Certain savings in the hands of the Paymaster-general,	37,921	3	10
Ditto,	27,690	0	0
By Exchequer Bills,	500,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	14,378,567	18	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Supplies granted,	14,347,497	18	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Excess of provisions,	31,069	19	10

The vote of credit for one million, granted this session, and the 500,000l. loan of the fourth of May, are both charged on the next aids.

It appears from the above accounts, that the additional public debt funded this year, amounts to six millions; the interest of which, at 3 per cent. per annum, is

Together with the additional annuity of 2l. 10s. per cent. per annum, for thirty years, which amounts to

—	180,000	0	0
per cent. per annum,			
—	150,000	0	0
Total amount,	330,000	0	0

This sum was raised in the following manner:—

By a tax on houses,	264,000	0	0
By an additional tax of eight guineas per tun on all French wines, and four guineas per tun on all other wines imported,	72,558	0	0
Total of new taxes,	336,558	0	0
Interest of the additional public debt funded this year,	330,000	0	0
Excess of new taxes,	6,558	0	0

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1778 The number of christenings and burials from December 16, 1777, to December 15, 1778, within the London bills of mortality, is as follows:—

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,793	Males,	10,235
Females,	8,507	Females,	10,164
In all,	17,300	In all,	20,399

In the city of Paris, during this year, there were born 11,445 males, and 10,821 females; in all, 22,266.—Died, 9,101 males, and 8,011 females; in all, 17,112: and 6,705 children were brought to the foundling hospital.

A treatise was about this time published in France, in which a calculation is made of the population of the most remarkable cities in the world. We are very sensible of the great difficulty, if not impossibility of being accurate in accounts of this nature, as well as the partiality of a French calculator; nevertheless, as this seems to be the result of an industrious enquiry, we shall not hesitate to insert it.

Paris,	—	about 823,276	increasing.
Madrid,	—	— 340,000	ditto.
London,	—	— 930,000	decreasing.
Amsterdam,	—	— 350,000	increasing.
Lisbon,	—	— 200,000	ditto.
Constantinople,	—	— 700,000	decreasing.
Venice,	—	— 160,000	ditto.
Dantzic,	—	— 240,000	ditto.
Petersburg,	—	— 200,000	increasing.
Copenhagen,	—	— 100,000	ditto.
Stockholm,	—	— 95,000	ditto.
Naples,	—	— 230,000	decreasing.
Pekin, in China,	—	— 900,000	ditto.
Rome,	—	— 200,000	ditto.
Moscow,	—	— 400,000	ditto.

1779 The commencement of this year did not possess an appearance auspicious to the interests of the British empire. The commissioners were returned from America, without having answered any purpose of national honour or utility. In short, the whole system of public affairs was now entirely different from what it had been to the present crisis, and the disputes between Great Britain and her colonies were changed into a war between this kingdom and France.—The question therefore was, at this time, whether we should passively submit to the perfidious dictates of that ambitious power, and suffer it, without resistance, to wrest, as it were, our property out of our hands, or endeavour, by calling forth every national resource, and employing every energy of the empire, to force the rebellious colonies to obedience, and make the enemy who had fomented, and now supported that rebellion, feel all the severity of British vengeance.

France and America having engaged in one common war with Great Britain, the prosecution of war with the one, necessarily included hostilities with the other. To act without vigour in America, from the hopes of producing reconciliation, would have been weakness in

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1779 the extreme; and to have assented to her independence, in order to direct the whole force of the British empire to the punishment of France, (which was a measure recommended by some leading persons of the party who opposed the ministry) would have found no encouragement from the general opinion of the nation.—Nay, it was in opposition to such an opinion, delivered by the Duke of Richmond in the House of Lords, that Lord Chatham uttered his last words,—pouring forth, even amidst pain and death, the last effusions of that brilliant and energetic soul, whose unbounded powers were uniformly exerted in the service of his country: thus closing a glorious life, by a still more glorious exit.

The war with France was, in truth, a matter of necessity: Parliament considered it in that point of view, and expressed its warmest resolutions to support the crown to the utmost in the prosecution of it; while the nation in general manifested the most sincere determination to second the efforts of government.

At this time, the issue of the engagement between the British and French fleets, on the 27th of July, in last year, was become a renewed matter of consideration among all ranks and classes of people. The discussion of this subject not only animated private conversation, but became the principal topic of the different public prints; till, at length, it was introduced into Parliament, and brought on the public accusation of Admiral Keppel, for misconduct, &c. by Sir Hugh Palliser, who had commanded the blue division of the fleet under him. In consequence of this charge, Admiral Keppel was brought to trial by a court-martial; and, after a long investigation of every species of evidence that could be produced, he was acquitted of all the charges that had been brought against him, in the most honourable manner. He was declared, in the most explicit terms, to have acted the part of a judicious, brave, and experienced officer; and the accusation was condemned in terms of the utmost severity.

This engagement, it was contended, excepting the mere destruction of the enemy's ships, had produced all the benefits which could have been derived from the most complete victory; as, in consequence of it, the British commerce was fully protected, while that of France was greatly distressed; and the British fleet remained master of the sea during the remainder of the campaign, while that of the enemy dared not venture out of port.—There were many, however, who held a very different opinion of the general effects of this first naval contest; and who strenuously maintained, that one of those happy opportunities had been permitted to escape, which, when seized with promptitude and vigour, frequently decide, at one firm, compacted stroke, the fate of wars and empires.

The unhappy consequences of the American war had, by this time, affected Ireland in a very alarming manner. Her immediate losses, indeed, considered merely as a specific sum in point of calculation, could certainly hold no comparison with those sustained by England; yet the lesser loss was more severely felt by the poorer country, than the greater had hitherto been by that which so much exceeded it in commercial capital. Other causes, however, and which proceeded directly from the American war, concurred in accumulating the distresses of Ireland; besides the ancient restraints upon her commerce, an embargo had been continued from the year 1776: thus her great staple commodities of beef and butter were shut up and perishing in their warehouses, at the very time their great,—their only free,—and, consequently, only valuable manufacture, that of linen, was greatly contracted by the American troubles.

Although nothing could be more distressing to the Irish than this embargo, yet it was very far from answering the purpose for which it was imposed: for it neither appeared at that time, nor has it since been proved, that the French armaments were laid by, or even deferred, from

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1779 the want of Irish provisions; and their West India islands were so far from being ruined on that account, that they were well known to have been supplied with many articles upon as good terms as our own.

But this was not all:—The Irish beheld, with grief and dismay, that the northern parts of Germany, and other countries adjoining to the Baltic, were, with great avidity, preparing to grasp at that beneficial trade, which was slipping out of their hands. They had already begun the experiment, were sparing no industry or expence in procuring proper salt for the purpose, and proper persons for instructing them in the art of curing and packing their beef, and had even sent some considerable quantities of it to the French market. Although these samples did not approach to any degree of competition with the Irish beef, in point of goodness, nevertheless, the very attempt was a natural subject of alarm. The vast profits which the supply would afford, from the lowness of rents, and the cheapness of cattle in those countries, would occasion great improvements both in the articles of feeding and curing: and it is a commercial maxim as universally known as experimentally established, that a branch of trade once lost, or even transferred, is rarely to be recovered. To render all these circumstances of loss and alarm the more mortifying, it was generally said, and from the authority of those who first made the declaration, universally believed, that the source of these mischiefs was neither more or less than a job, which owed its origin, or, at least, its continuance, to ministerial favour, and a partiality to particular contracts.

But other circumstances, besides the shackles on her trade, combined to augment the distress of this country:—The rent of lands in Ireland, within the last thirty years, had been very much encreased: but though this rise in the rents must have been generally supported by the prices given in those markets which took off the produce of the lands, yet it appeared, too evidently, that competition, and a spirit of speculation, had their share in the rise, and when they fell, a very general failure of credit accompanied them.

Under these circumstances, numbers of the labouring and manufacturing part of the community found themselves without employment, and, consequently, destitute of the necessities of life. Though great and numerous acts of private charity, aided by the liberalities of public subscription, did, in some measure, alleviate this alarming calamity, and though 20,000 poor were continually fed, for a considerable time, in the city of Dublin only, yet these efforts could produce only a partial remedy, and it was very evident, that employment alone could give certainty to that subsistence which their daily labour had hitherto provided for them.

It is also more than probable, that a portion of this distress might have arisen from that fluctuation of commerce which happens frequently in the best of times: but be that as it may, the situation of that kingdom forced itself on the attention of many persons of consideration in this: so important and pressing a subject had therefore been, in some degree, brought forward in the House of Commons previous to the recess during the Christmas holidays. On that occasion, the distresses of the Irish people were displayed in the strongest colours, and it had been very powerfully urged, that it was absolutely necessary to the welfare of Great Britain, to afford a speedy and essential relief to Ireland, which, it was asserted, could alone be done, to any effect, by removing those impolitic restrictions on their trade, which owed their rise merely to the narrow spirit of monopoly, operating upon mistaken notions of all true commercial principles; these restrictions being, in reality, as contrary to the real interests of this country, as they were hostile to the prosperity of the sister kingdom. Notice was therefore given, that a bill would be proposed for granting commercial relief to Ireland.

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Accordingly,

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Accordingly, the first propositions held out in favour of that country, although not specifically applied or moved for, went to the granting her a general exportation in all matters, except her woollens; the establishment of a cotton manufactory under that right, and a liberty of trading to and from America, the West Indies, and the coast of Africa. But these were opposed, on the idea of their being too general and extensive, as well as too alarming to the manufacturers here, and were, by degrees, narrowed in such a manner, until the supporters of them entered into a kind of compromise, to give up the general outline of relief, and to confine themselves to some particular and specific proposition. It was accordingly moved, that the House should, on a given day, resolve itself into a committee, to take into consideration the acts of Parliament relating to the importation of sugars from the West Indies into Ireland.

The declared object of this motion was to repeal that clause in the act of navigation, by which all ships laden with sugars were compelled to bring their cargoes directly to England, from whence the quantity necessary for the consumption of Ireland was afterwards to be re-exported to it. This question was fairly and coolly debated on both sides, without any appearance of warmth, but such as naturally arose from the locality of representation; and was, at length, carried only by a majority of five votes.

In the mean time, the clamour without doors, and the opposition from the manufacturing districts, was much less violent than they had been in the preceding session.—Glasgow and Manchester, however had petitioned; and the minister suddenly veering from the neutral state he had hitherto kept in the business, the proposed relief was rejected on the 18th of March, by a majority of one vote more than that which had advanced it to the first stage of parliamentary existence.

As the affairs of Ireland will compose, in future, a very interesting and important part of this work, we shall prepare the way to a right understanding of them, by bringing into one point of view the principal arguments that were urged at the different periods in which this business was agitated, whether in support of, or in opposition to the proposed measure.

It was contended, that leaving all ideas of liberality, or even justice out of the question, we were impelled, by a necessary regard to our own present security and future preservation, to cherish and maintain the remaining parts of the empire, and to concentrate the whole body of the people in one common bond of union, which could be produced by no other means than by a general communication of interests, and participation of benefits.—That the people of Ireland expected, and had an undoubted right to demand relief:—That this was no time, after the heavy loss of the colonies and of our American commerce, to hazard that of our sister kingdom, whether by invasion or separation, one of which was already threatened, and the other by no means an object of idle apprehension, if the expected relief was not afforded to it. But even supposing that the loyalty and patience of Ireland should be invincible, and that neither a conquest or separation should take place, though we should continue to possess the soil of that kingdom, we should lose the inhabitants; who, as soon as a peace took place, if our oppression continued, would emigrate in great numbers to America, and carry their arts, manufactures, and industry along with them.—It was asserted that the American armies had been numerously recruited by the unhappy emigrants from Ireland; who, being driven from their country by want, were compelled by the same necessity to take up arms in a quarrel in which they had no interest, and to shed their blood in a contest with their friends and brethren.

The

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1779 The Irish were also stated as the best customers in many articles of British merchandize and manufactures; that we long derived the advantages of wealth and power from them, which would be proportionably increased under a wise and liberal system of government; and that every commercial benefit we granted to them, would return, with accumulated interest, to ourselves.

From the papers produced to justify these, and similar assertions, it appeared, that the exports from England to Ireland, on an average of ten years, amounted to 2,057,000*l.* yearly; and that the exports from Ireland to England, on a similar calculation, did not exceed 1,353,000*l.* per annum; consequently, the balance in favour of England, during that period, exceeded 7,000,000*l.* sterling; exclusive of which were to be considered the immense sums drawn from Ireland in rents to absentees, pensions, the emoluments of places held by Englishmen, expences on appeals in law and equity, as well as those of business and of pleasure.

It also appeared, that the decrease of exports from England to Ireland, during the last two years, amounted, on an average, to no less a sum than 716,000*l.* per annum; from whence it was reasonably foretold, how great the loss would be to the revenue, as well as to the trade and manufactures of this country, if the distresses of Ireland were suffered to accumulate.—It was very naturally asked, whether such a country, with such benefits as we derived from it, was to be committed to any hazard, or to be rendered a constituent part of our body politic, of our common stock of wealth, strength, and defence? and whether a kingdom should be sacrificed to a single town, to the monopoly of a particular district, or to the ill-judged clamours and idle prejudices of any body of manufacturers whatever?—The experience of delay in satisfying America was strongly urged, and the good fruit of an early gratification of the wishes of Ireland forcibly stated and recommended.

On the other hand, the distresses of Ireland were said to be greatly overcharged: but that, even if the melancholy description were strictly true, the grievances complained of were not to be attributed so much to the trade laws here, as to the mal-administration there,—to faults in the internal constitution of their government, and to general mismanagement in the conduct of their affairs.—These were matters which should be first enquired into and redressed; and without such a preliminary measure, no substantial relief could be afforded. It was said, that the unhappy consequences of the American war were equally felt in both countries; that Ireland bore no more than her share in the common calamity; and that if her people were without bread, our own manufacturers were also without that employment which could procure it. That in this state of common distress, however our feelings might be affected with respect to our Irish brethren, our sympathy was more naturally attracted by those sufferings which were immediately within our knowledge; and, that however alarming a rebellion in Ireland might be, it could not be a matter of such serious apprehension as a rebellion at home; an event which was equally probable, if any addition was made to the sufferings which our manufacturers already endured, by a surrender of those advantages in trade which they considered as their birth-right.

This business was however taken up in the House of Lords, but passed off, on government undertaking to prepare a proper plan for accomodating the affairs of Ireland, and to have it ready to lay before Parliament early in the ensuing session: some laws, however, relating to Ireland had been passed in this, the heads of which will be found in the commercial acts of this year.

That

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That it was necessary to assist Ireland, in point of mere commercial policy, was as clear as evidence could make it.—But the spirit of the people of that kingdom was beginning to arouse from its dormant state, to demand that as a right, which we had delayed to grant as a favour. The example of America was before them, and they shewed a disposition to follow it; for, exclusive of some very serious riots which happened in this year, we have the following articles to confirm our relation.

At an assembly held at the Tholsel of the city of Dublin, on the 16th of April, 1779, the following resolutions were agreed to:—

“Resolved,—That the unjust, illiberal, and impolitic opposition given by many self-interested people of Great Britain to the proposed encouragement of the trade and commerce of this kingdom, originated in avarice and ingratitude.

“Resolved,—That we will not, directly or indirectly, import or use any goods or wares, the produce or manufacture of Great Britain, which can be produced or manufactured in this kingdom, till an enlightened policy, founded on principles of justice, shall appear to actuate the inhabitants of certain manufacturing towns of Great Britain, who have taken so active a part in opposing the regulations proposed in favour of the trade of Ireland; and that they appear to entertain sentiments of respect and affection for their fellow-subjects of this kingdom.”

At the summer assizes for the county and city of Waterford, the high sheriff, grand juries, and principal inhabitants met, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present ruinous state of the trade and manufactures, and the alarming decline in the value of the staple commodities of that kingdom; and looking upon it as an indispensable duty that they owed to their country and themselves, to restrain, by every means in their power, these growing evils, they came to, and signed the following resolutions:—

“Resolved,—That we, our families, and all whom we can influence, shall, from this day, wear and make use of the manufactures of this country, and this country only, until such time as all partial restrictions on our trade, imposed by the illiberal and contracted policy of our sister kingdom, be removed: but if, in consequence of this our resolution, the manufacturers (whose interest we have more immediately under consideration) should act fraudulently, or combine to impose upon the public, we shall hold ourselves no longer bound to countenance and support them.

“Resolved,—That we will not deal with any merchant or shopkeeper who shall, at any time hereafter, be detected in imposing any foreign manufacture as the manufacture of this country.”

On the 16th of April, Admiral Pigot brought forward, in the House of Commons, the subject of his brother, Lord Pigot's deposition, imprisonment, and death; and concluded it with a motion, which met with the highest approbation of the House, for an address to his Majesty to direct his attorney-general to prosecute George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, and George Mackay, Esqrs. for ordering their governor and commander in chief, Lord Pigot, to be arrested and confined under a military force, &c.—Those persons were afterwards tried, and found guilty. Lord Pigot was a faithful servant of the East India Company: to execute the commission with which he had been entrusted, was his determined resolution; and if his zeal impelled him to what has the appearance of violent proceeding, he seems, in a great degree, to be justified by the circumstances about him: and that particular act of suspending members of the council, which was the chief article of accusation against him, was the first act of his accusers themselves, when they entered upon the administration of that power from

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from which they had deposed their governor.—He certainly possessed the most incorruptible integrity; as, in a country where corruption seemed to possess a licence, he refused a bribe, amounting in value to 600,000*l.* sterling, merely to delay, but for a short time, the reinstatement of the Rajah of Tanjour.

But leaving, for a while, these internal disputes and dissensions, let us now turn our eyes to an object of greater magnitude,—to a more extended field of action; where partial evil seems to sink under the weightier pressure of general calamity, and a combination of power that appeared irresistible.

France had been, for some time, diligently and artfully employed in procuring the accession of Spain to the cause which she had espoused. That ambitious power was convinced, notwithstanding the hopes she had conceived from her great preparations, that they were not adequate to the design she had formed of compelling Great Britain to submit to the terms she had arranged, in conjunction with the United States of America. She was sensible of the danger which threatened her commerce, and was alarmed for the resources of her marine power.—In the course of another year, she had every reason to apprehend that the fleets and privateers of Great Britain, were they to continue their career, would reduce her to such distress, as entirely to disable her from prosecuting the grand object of her wishes.

In this critical situation, she reminded the court of Spain of the solemn engagements of the Family Compact: she represented, in the strongest manner, that if the French branch of the line of Bourbon were to be humbled by Great Britain, that the Spanish branch must inevitably partake of its humiliation, and they would be both degraded a second time in the eyes of all Europe.

The solicitations of the French court were, however, for a certain period, unsuccessful:—Spain did not, at that time, think it her interest to co-operate in the dismemberment of the British empire; and she was rather disposed to look forward to future contingencies, than to consult the apparent interest of the present moment. The precedent of a successful rebellion in any colonies, was considered, and with great reason, by the Spanish court, as too dangerous to be encouraged and assisted in the manner proposed by France. The American possessions of Spain were, in many respects similar to those of Great Britain in that quarter of the globe, and the example of British America might excite discontents and commotions in the Spanish colonies, where it was well known turbulent spirits were not wanting to foment them. It was certainly the true policy of Spain to resist the insinuating propositions of France; and, for a time, she did resist them: at length, however, the French solicitations at Madrid became more successful; and the Spanish monarch was prevailed upon to make an offer of his mediation between France, North America, and Great Britain.

His Catholic Majesty acted upon this occasion with great foresight and circumspection.—He waited till the military and naval forces that had been employed in the late quarrel between Spain and Portugal were returned from Brazil; and till the rich fleets from Mexico and Peru were safely arrived in the harbours of Spain. As soon as these were secured, he assumed the character of mediator between the powers at war. Great Britain acceded to this attempt towards a pacification; and the terms proposed by the Spanish monarch were to the following purport:—

“That all parties should disarm immediately, and agree to an universal cessation of hostilities in all parts of the world; that they should remain in possession of the places and territories they occupied at the time this suspension took place; that a meeting should be appointed, where

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1779 where the ministers of France and Great Britain should settle their respective differences; that France should not interfere in the settlement of the dispute between Great Britain and the states of America, which should be left entirely to the decision of Spain; that, in the mean time, the American states should be treated with on a footing of independence; and, that in case an accommodation was not effected, hostilities should not recommence till twelve months notice had been given of such an intention."

Such were the propositions held out to the belligerent powers; and Great Britain did not hesitate, on her part, to refuse a mediation founded on principles so inimical to her interests and glory.

On this declaration, Spain immediately determined to associate herself with France and America against Great Britain. This resolution was taken so abruptly, on receiving the denial of the British court to coincide with the measures proposed, that it became as evident as the appearance of things could make it, that the mediation which had been proposed, was not founded on a sufficient basis of impartiality to render it worthy of confidence.

On the 16th of June, the Spanish ambassador declared the intentions of his sovereign to the court of London.—The rescript which he delivered on the occasion, was a loose, desultory composition, consisting entirely of vague accusations and general assertions, without any arguments to enforce the one or support the other. The circumstances which it stated, carried no weight or conviction; and could not, by any sophistry, have been clothed with the semblance of justifiable causes for such a serious and violent measure as a rupture between the two nations.

It set forth,—That the King of Spain had used his utmost endeavours to bring about a reconciliation between Great Britain and the powers with which she was at war, but that they had been rejected in a manner that manifested an hostile disposition in that court.

It represented the conduct of the British ministry, respecting the mediation it had accepted on the part of Spain, as disingenuous, and tending only to protract it, by vain pretences and evasive answers.

It complained of insults offered to the Spanish flag, and outrages on the territory of Spain in America; for which reparation had been demanded, and never received.

It also contained one charge of a nature not to be paralleled in all the proceedings of the corps diplomatique; in which was specified, in one line, that the number of insults and injuries which Spain had received from Great Britain, amounted to just *one hundred!*

The complaints contained in this rescript were answered in a very forcible and circumstantial manner, by a paper which was transmitted to the Spanish ambassador after his departure, to the following effect:—

"As nothing could be more distant from the King's intention than to break the friendship subsisting between Great Britain and Spain, it is by order of his Majesty that such a state of the matters set forth in the Spanish declaration is offered, as he doubts not must shew the sincerity with which his Majesty has endeavoured to maintain the general tranquillity.

"The little desire of peace, as supposed on the part of the King, is deduced from the conduct attributed to Great Britain during the last negociation:—After the professions of the impartiality of his Catholic Majesty, his offers of mediation between Great Britain and France, and after the acceptation of the same, the declaration affirms—'That every step had been taken necessary to produce the best effects, in order to prepare the two powers towards an accommodation equally honourable to both parties: that, to this end, wise expedients had
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1779 been proposed; but notwithstanding these terms were conformable to such as the court of London, at other times, judged proper and conducive to an accommodation, they were however rejected in a manner, that too well proves the reluctance, on the part of the British cabinet, to restore peace to Europe, and to preserve the friendship of his Catholic Majesty.

“The conditions offered by France were, to the highest degree, injurious and inadmissible; the King expressly declared, that he considered them as such; and nothing can be more evident, than that the expedients offered by Spain inevitably tended to enforce these very injurious conditions, but just before declared as inadmissible.

“The pernicious consequences of the proposed expedients had been explained to the court of Spain, by order of the King, which were, in the most amicable manner, expressly rejected. Had it been otherwise, there could be no reason for an ultimatum: yet it is not, without astonishment, that, after the first answer, the King received the ultimatum from the court of Spain, not only containing the very same offers thus rejected, but announced with scarce any difference in point of form. The declaration further says, ‘That, on the 28th of September, the court of Spain had notified to the belligerent powers, that in case the negociation did not succeed, she would then determine how to act.’ If the open part the court of Spain now takes, be that she secretly intended, at that time, it would have been more consistent with her dignity to have avowed it then, and to have ranged herself openly under the banners of France.

“Instead of such a conduct, the court of Madrid, affecting impartiality, hath offered to mediate, but not to dictate the terms of peace, promising to communicate to each court the conditions claimed by either, that so they might be modified, explained, or rejected. When the proposals made by France were rejected, and the declaration made to Spain to cease her mediation, since her endeavours did not succeed, it was accompanied with assurances, that the friendship subsisting between the two nations should not be interrupted.

“How far this is true, appears from the actual declaration announcing hostilities on the part of Spain; without venturing to state the non-acceptance of the terms as one of the causes of the war; but should it be otherwise insinuated, it will furnish his Majesty with an additional reason to complain of the injustice and arrogance of such a pretension.

“The previous causes which the court of Spain hath thought proper to urge, are, the insults against her flag, and the violation of her territory. As to the first, these are the terms of her memorial. ‘Prizes have been made; vessels have been searched and plundered; many have been fired upon who were forced to defend themselves; the registers and packets belonging to the court, and found on board his Catholic Majesty’s packet boats, have been opened and torn to pieces.’

“American vessels of every kind have been received into the ports of Spain: they have been furnished with false documents, and suffered to carry Spanish colours; their privateers have plundered all nations without distinction, and such has been the industry of the Spanish ministry, in order to enhance the number of grievances, that these depredations were represented by them as injuries committed by Great Britain. These complaints seldom specified the author of the supposed insult; those which did, were frequently ill-founded, and in general frivolous; however, it is granted, that the answers were friendly. The King thought it worthy of himself not only to use every precaution necessary to prevent disorders which might offend neutral powers, but also to exert every effort to punish the authors and repair the loss of the sufferers. Such has been his conduct at all times, when possible to discover and convict the guilty.

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“ It has been advanced, ‘ That his Catholic Majesty formally declared to the court of London, ever since France commenced hostilities, that the court of Madrid would regulate her conduct by that of the court of Great Britain ;’ nevertheless, thirteen English vessels have been seized, on what pretence, or by whose order, we are still to learn, although his Majesty ordered such representations to be made as are usual on the like occasions, between nations in a state of amity ; which his Majesty did,—not attributing these seizures to a perfidious and inimical design, until the conduct of the court of Spain was better explained by the present declaration.

“ The pretended violation of the Spanish territory may be reduced to four heads :

“ First, That the dominions in America belonging to the court of Spain have been threatened, without specifying time, place, or circumstance.

“ Secondly, The memorial mentions, ‘ That the Indians have been set against the innocent inhabitants of Louisiana, who must have fallen victims to their fury, had not even the Chictaws repented and revealed the conspiracy.’ It is well known, that the governor of New Orleans tried to reduce the Chictaws, and that he received, with open arms, those tribes, which committed devastations in the English Western settlements. These tribes returned, but were not set against the Spanish territory ; it was never attempted, nor was such an idea ever entertained.

“ The declaration asserts, ‘ That a formal representation was made to the court of London concerning these different grievances ; and seeing the equivocal expressions on the two preceding points, such remonstrances were particularly necessary towards the strict observance of the good faith between two nations at peace.’ It is not true, that the least representation was ever made on either of the two preceding articles ; to which the most ample and satisfactory answers might have been given.

“ Thirdly, They pretend, ‘ That the sovereignty of his Catholic Majesty, in the province of Darien, and on the coast of Saint Blas, hath been usurped ; the government of Jamaica having appointed an Indian to the rank of General over those provinces.’ On this subject, instructions were dispatched, bearing date the 28th of April last, as is usual between nations in friendship ; no advices being received from Jamaica on this matter, fresh orders were sent for a full explanation ; but, in point of time, no answer could yet be expected.

“ Fourthly, ‘ That the territory in the Bay of Honduras has been usurped, acts of hostility committed, the Spaniards imprisoned and their houses plundered ; as also that England had neglected to fulfil the stipulated article relative to this coast, agreeable to the seventeenth article of the treaty of Paris.’ With regard to the English subjects frequenting the Bay of Honduras, that matter had been regulated according to the aforesaid article, and finally adjusted with the court of Spain in the year 1764 ; since which period no complaint having been made on either side, this court is still ignorant whether the least cause ever existed. This, surely, cannot be included among the pretended grievances which the declaration supposes, as having been duly represented either to the English court, or to her ambassador at the court of Madrid.

“ Such are the motives alleged by the court of Spain as a justification, before God and the world, for commencing hostilities against Great Britain. The King appeals to the actual state of affairs, being the same as that which subsisted since the conclusion of the last treaty, as a full proof that no attempt was ever made, on his part, to infringe this treaty. He appeals to

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1779 his uniform conduct ever since this epoch, to furnish still stronger proofs that he hath endeavoured to preserve the same, with all the assiduity and care which the interests of humanity and the happiness of his subjects required. Ultimately, he appeals to the conduct of his enemies, and in particular to the declaration of the court of Spain, as the last proof of the necessity he is under to defend the rights of his crown and people, against a determined project to invade the same; a project wherein the court of Spain at length openly joins, without the least reason to colour such a proceeding."

Hence it appears, that whatever pretences might be alleged by Spain, for breaking the peace with England, it was very evident, that the real motive was to embrace the favourable opportunity of depressing Great Britain which was now offered, by the defection of its colonies. This could not be otherwise than the general opinion,—though government did not escape the acrimony of the opposition party, when the ministers delivered the royal message, which accompanied the Spanish manifesto, to Parliament: both houses concurred firmly and unanimously in the resolution to support, with the utmost spirit and vigour, the war denounced against this country by the House of Bourbon.

This was, without doubt, a very alarming and critical period. But the spirit and magnanimity that were displayed at this time of danger, fully answered the prognostications of those politicians, both at home and abroad, who had confidently predicted that the combination formed against Britain, would only serve to discover the amazing resources she possessed, and to make it evident, that the hopes of its enemies were founded on their ignorance of the real situation of this country, and the disposition of its people; of the greatness of its intrinsic wealth, and the readiness to employ it with the most boundless generosity for the common defence.

Animated with this laudable spirit, all parts of the kingdom exhibited such an ardent zeal to forward every measure necessary for the protection of the realm, as banished alarm and despondency. People of rank and affluence acted every where with a patriot liberality, which proved that the wealth of the country was ready to assist the exigencies of it, and every possible preparation was made to meet the utmost efforts of the enemy. In an attempt to seize the island of Jersey, a body of French troops, under the command of Prince Nassau, had already been repulsed in a manner that did infinite honour to the handful of British soldiers who were on duty there, as well as to the officers who commanded them.

About this time, however, the situation of our West India islands became very critical.—Soon after the capture of the island of St. Lucia, Admiral Byron arrived with his Squadron in the West Indies, and joining Admiral Barrington, caused a very considerable alarm among the French islands. This fleet sailed immediately to Martinico, to provoke Count D'Estaing to come forth and engage them; but, even after he had been strengthened by the arrival of considerable reinforcements from France, he remained immovable in the harbour of Port Royal. His conduct was influenced by very proper motives; he knew that the convoys necessary for the homeward bound trade from the British West India islands would diminish the strength of the British fleet, and give him an opportunity of attacking it with advantage.

A very numerous and valuable fleet of merchantmen having assembled, about the middle of June, at St. Christopher's, Admiral Byron determined to convoy them with his whole Squadron, a considerable part of their voyage. Indeed, no separation of it could have been risked with any prospect of safety; as we had no port in those islands, of sufficient strength to have afforded protection to the remaining division of the fleet, against the great superiority of land as well as of naval force which Mons. D'Estaing commanded: besides, the French commander

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1779 had in his choice to pursue the convoy, and if he even failed of overtaking it, he could scarcely have missed of intercepting the squadron, on its return, which had been sent to protect it. The measure of affording a strong safeguard to the trade was, also, the more indispensable, as it was known that M. de la Motte Piquet was then on his way from France with a considerable reinforcement to D'Estaing; and no common or ordinary convoy would have been sufficient for the protection of the trade, in case of its falling in with his squadron.

This measure of Admiral Byron, appears to have been the best that could be adopted in his difficult and critical situation; nevertheless, the first consequence of his departure was the loss of the island of St. Vincent. For no sooner was the British fleet sailed, than Monf. D'Estaing dispatched a body of troops to attack that island, which being joined by great numbers of the native Charibs, the combined strength of these foreign and domestic enemies was too great to be withstood by an inconsiderable and ill supplied garrison. Governor Morris did all that an active, zealous and brave officer could do on the occasion. He had long and repeatedly remonstrated to government on the exposed and ill-provided state of the island, without being favoured with any attention from home, for when it was attacked he had not 230 men to defend it, besides the maintenance of twenty posts, nor ammunition, &c. sufficient for an hour's defence: besides, the very inhabitants were many of them luke warm in his support, and some of them friendly to the enemy. He, however, to his honour, obtained a capitulation as favourable as the most ample means of defence could have qualified him to demand.

The capitulation of St. Vincent's took place on the 18th of June in this year, and in the following month, the island of Grenada surrendered to the French arms under the command of the Count D'Estaing, but without any capitulation; as the terms the French commander in chief demanded were of such an extraordinary nature, that Lord Macartney, the British governor, and principal inhabitants thought it better to trust to the law and customs of nations, to the justice of one court and the interposition of the other, by surrendering at discretion, than to bind themselves to such unprecedented conditions.

But while the British empire was thus threatened by foreign enemies, it had no small reason to be alarmed by internal dissatisfaction and discontent. In Ireland, affairs seemed to be approaching fast to a crisis: it was not, indeed, to be expected, that a country dependent on Great Britain, and much limited in the use of its natural advantages, should not be affected by the causes and consequences of the American war. Persons of understanding in that kingdom could not but perceive, in the present combination of circumstances, an advantage which was now to be improved or abandoned for ever. A new state of public and private distress, together with a strong sense of recent insults, as they were now considered, were the principal agents which produced this revolution in the temper and disposition of the people of Ireland. The restrictions on the commerce and manufactures of Ireland might have been passed over for some ages to come, with, perhaps, even less difficulty than they had been endured for near a century past, if temporary distress had not quickened the apprehensions of the people of that kingdom.

Of all the evils of which they complained, the three years embargo on the only staple export of that kingdom seemed pregnant with the greatest mischief, and being considered, from the concessions granted to America, as particularly insulting, was accordingly the most immediately resented by the people. One of the public writers of that country declared, "that it was sent as a curse, and operated as a pestilence." It was likewise, along with its pernicious tendency and effects, charged with being not only unconstitutional, but absolutely illegal.

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1779 But what aggravated every circumstance relative to this business to the highest possible degree, was the national contempt which it was supposed to convey: for, as it was declared without reserve, both in Parliament and out of it, to be a government job, it was natural that the indignation of the whole people would be called forth; and when it was represented to them, by those whose opinions were held in the highest estimation, that they were reduced to the distresses they suffered, in order to enrich the body of British contractors.

Some other real or supposed matters of irritation or causes of jealousy, as they excited suspicion or apprehension, served also to render the sense of immediate grievance or distress still more insupportable in that country. Some very strong and unprofitable language, used in the British Parliament, served very much to increase this apprehension and jealousy in drawing parallels between the constitution of Ireland and the Colonies, and deriving arguments for the submission of the latter from the restraints to which the former had been subject.

Still, however, the hopes of some considerable enlargement of their commerce, which was repeatedly held out in Parliament, operated, to a very extraordinary degree, in preserving the temper and fortifying the patience of the people. But when they found that these declarations proposed but very little benefit to them, and little as it was, that it met with no common opposition from many of the trading parts of Great Britain, the hopes of redress became daily more faint, while the acquiescence and good temper founded upon them, were proportionably exhausted. They could not but observe, that when a bill, which, though of no great consequence, would have afforded some alleviation to their distresses, had been nearly carried through the House of Commons, the minister himself, who they had been made to believe was their friend, stood forward to defeat it. The two bills which were afterwards passed in the same session, for permitting the cultivation of tobacco, and encouraging that of hemp in Ireland, instead of affording satisfaction or promoting harmony, produced a directly contrary effect, being considered as nothing less than mockeries, and as insults offered to their distresses.

In this manner, things were represented and felt in Ireland; and when the attempt to keep Parliament sitting, for the purpose of settling some plan for their satisfaction, was defeated, the flame which had been for some time smothered, broke out with considerable violence.

Associations against the purchase and use of British manufactures, and for the encouragement, in every possible degree, of their own, had already taken place in some parts of that country; but seemed to be kept back, as a matter of consideration, and a final resort in case of extremity, by the greater part of the kingdom. All reserve, however, upon this subject, was now at an end; associations became universal; and the non-importation and non-consumption agreements included the usual penalties or denunciations of vengeance, not only against violators, but against those impostors or sellers of the prohibited commodities, who had not acceded to the general compact. By these means, it was computed, that even in the present weak state of their manufactures, a million sterling would be saved which went annually to Great Britain. This great saving, it was said, would afford some compensation or redress for many of their grievances and distresses; and would be the means of humbling the pride and punishing the ingratitude of the towns of Manchester and Glasgow; which, though they had been constant and immense gainers in the Irish trade, had been the first and most effective in opposing and defeating every measure of redress or relief which had been proposed in favour of Ireland.

But the turn of affairs and the future fortune of that kingdom were to depend on associations of a very different nature, than any which related merely to commercial or domestic regula-

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1779 tions. To the accumulation of alarms had been lately added the danger of a foreign invasion, which was the more alarming, as the military force supported by Ireland, had been continually drained off and weakened for the American war.

In order to provide for their defence, military associations took place, and the spirit of them soon became universal throughout the kingdom. It was declared, that they were intended for the two-fold purpose of defending their country against foreign enemies and their rights against, what they thought, domestic usurpation: that they were loyal to their King, and affectionate to Great Britain; but that it was with such loyalty and affection as consisted with their own liberty and prosperity. Under the influence of this spirit, large bodies of citizens were seen to arise, who chose their own officers, served at their own charge, and submitted to all the rigour of military discipline. Men of large fortune served in the ranks; and all this was conducted without the least confusion or disorder: On the contrary, the peace of the country and a due obedience to the laws was never more effectually maintained. When we reflect on the temper lately prevalent in that country, and its scenes of intestine division, we cannot but consider the state of Ireland which we have just described, as one of the most extraordinary revolutions in the history of the world.

The numbers thus trained were upwards of 20,000 men in the first year of their assembling; they were afterwards considerably increased, and were admirably appointed as well as incomparably disciplined. Government saw this proceeding with astonishment: it was in vain to offer the least resistance to the design of a general armament; nor could it be wished to restrain the spirit so far as regarded a foreign enemy. Some attempts were quietly made to regulate this force and bring it to act under the authority of the crown; but, as they met with no kind of success, it was thought a wise and necessary measure to sanctify by approbation what could not be prevented by opposition.

The Irish, however, after having provided for their defence against foreign enemies, began to look forwards to a claim of their rights, and to an annihilation of all authority of the British Parliament over them. Among others, the British mutiny act was denied to possess any validity; and that opinion was so seriously maintained, that the troops were, for some time, in a great degree confined to their respective stations; as it was a matter of no common difficulty to persuade any magistrate to issue billets for their quarters. It required the greatest degree of temper and circumspection in those who governed in Ireland, and in the commanders of the King's forces there, to prevent the collision of the royal and democratic armies: and they deserve the highest praise for the prudence of their conduct at such an important and alarming crisis.

This state of things was not the work of a party, or of any particular order of men; but was upheld by every rank, class and denomination of the people. The wise and humane conduct of the British legislature, in relaxing the penal restrictions of the laws against the English Roman Catholics, was a measure of such obvious utility, that the example was speedily followed by the Irish Parliament, who communicated similar benefits to those of that profession in their own country. These people who form so great a majority of the Irish nation, soon perceived, that as they now possessed a common share in the common interests, so they were equally called upon to the public defence and the support of the public rights; so that all former distrust and apprehension of each other being laid aside, one general spirit and principle appeared to operate upon the whole people.

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A free, unlimited, and universal commerce was the first object of redress, for which it appeared, that no compensation could be admitted, and without which, no other concessions or advantages, however great or beneficial, could afford satisfaction: and when the Irish Parliament met on the 12th of October, they declared in their addresses to the throne, that nothing less than a free and unlimited trade could save their country from ruin. But this was not all: the associations and people at large, not, perhaps, possessing a perfect confidence in the steadiness of their own Parliament, and suspecting that they should be amused by empty promises from Great Britain, were determined, if possible, to prevent the granting the supplies for the two following years, according to the accustomed mode; and, by procuring a short money bill for six months only, to make the sitting of Parliament essentially necessary to the existence of government. To such a measure, which was considered by many as an innovation on established forms, and the violent endeavours employed to enforce it, as an invasion of Parliamentary dignity, there appeared a very powerful opposition; but such was the universal cry of the nation, that its representatives found it necessary to submit, and the short money bill having passed on that side, the necessities of the period secured the sanction of the British government, to that act of the Irish Parliament.

Such was the relative disposition of the sister kingdom, on the meeting of the English Parliament on the 25th of November, when his Majesty, in his speech from the throne, among other important matters, expressed himself with respect to Ireland in the following manner: "In the midst of my care and solicitude for the safety and welfare of this country, I have not been inattentive to the state of my loyal and faithful kingdom of Ireland. I have, in consequence of your addresses, presented to me in the last session, ordered such papers to be collected, and laid before you, as may assist your deliberations, on this important business; and I recommend it to you to consider what further benefits and advantages may be extended to that kingdom, by such regulations and such methods, as may most effectually promote the common strength, wealth, and interests of all my dominions."

The affairs of Ireland, therefore, naturally took the lead in this session: Lord Shelburne had introduced an unsuccessful motion of censure on the ministers, in the House of Lords, in support of which he displayed all the eloquence he is known to possess, and that complete knowledge of his subject which he never fails to discover whenever that eloquence is exerted. Lord Offory also made a similar motion, with similar effect in the House of Commons.—However, on the 13th of December, the minister opened his propositions for affording relief to Ireland. They were three in number, and went to the following articles. To the repeal of those laws, which prohibit the exportation of Irish manufactures, made of or mixed with wool or wool flocks, from Ireland to any part of Europe. That so much of the act of the nineteenth of George II. as prohibits the importation of glass into Ireland, except of British manufacture, or to export glass from that kingdom, be repealed: and that Ireland be suffered to carry on a trade of export and import, to and from the British colonies in America and the West Indies, and her settlements on the coast of Africa, subject to such limitations, regulations, restrictions and duties, as the Parliament of Ireland shall impose.

The minister stated, with equal ability and knowledge of his subject, the propriety and justice, as well as the necessity of affording relief to Ireland, and entered fully into the claims of that country, as well with respect to her natural and inherent rights, as to those arising from her particular connection with Great Britain. He also expatiated at large on the mutual and respective interests of both countries, and collected into one point of view all the questions of commerce

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1779 commerce and policy which related to them. In short, the resolutions were agreed to without any opposition. Bills, founded on the two first propositions, were accordingly brought in, passed both Houses and received the royal assent before the Christmas recess. The third, being more complex in its nature, requiring a variety of enquiry, and being subject to several limitations and conditions, was suffered to lay over the holidays, in its present state of an open proposition; not only to afford time for consideration here, but for acquiring a knowledge of the effect which the measure would produce in Ireland.

Several memorials having been presented to the States General in the course of this year, by Sir Joseph Yorke, the British ambassador at the Hague, we shall state the contents and objects of them.

The following order of the French King's council, which was the object of the first memorial we shall give at large.

“ The King having declared by his regulation of the 26th of July last, concerning the navigation of neutral vessels, that he reserved to himself the power of revoking the liberty granted by the first article, in case the belligerent powers should not grant the same within the space of six months; and his Majesty, judging it proper to make known his intentions relative to the vessels belonging to the subjects of the republic of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, has, in council, ordered and declared, as follows:—”

“ Article I. The republic of the United Provinces not having obtained of the court of London the liberty of navigation, equal to that which the King had conditionally promised to their flag, and which their treaties with England should secure to them, his Majesty revokes, with respect to the subjects of the said republic, the advantages granted by the first article, concerning the commerce and navigation of neutral ships; and, in consequence, declares it his pleasure, that the vessels of the said republic shall provisionally execute the first, second, third, fourth and fifth articles of the regulation of the 21st of October, 1744 ”

“ II. His Majesty further declares, that from the date of the 26th of January, 1779, the vessels belonging to the subjects of the said republic, shall pay the duty on freightage, as is established by the ordinances and regulations, and particularly by the declaration of the 24th of November, 1750; and the order of council of the 16th of July, 1757; his Majesty reserving to himself the power of laying, when he pleases, new duties on the commodities of the United Provinces, and the productions of their manufactures.

“ III. His Majesty, however, considering that the city of Amsterdam has made the most patriotic exertions to persuade the republic to procure from the court of London, the security of that unlimited liberty which belongs to their flag, in consequence of her independence and integrity of commerce, and which the rights of nations and treaties secure to her: and his Majesty, desirous of giving the said city a striking example of his benevolence, has reserved to the ships freighted by the inhabitants of Amsterdam, the liberty promised by the first article of the regulation of the 26th of July last, concerning the navigation of neutral vessels, as to the exemption of the duties of freightage; except such vessels as are employed in the French coasting trade, which shall continue to be subject to the order of council of the 16th of July, 1757.— His Majesty further reserves to the inhabitants of the said city the advantages granted to their own commodities, and the productions of their manufactures, conformably to what is at present practised.

“ IV. To secure to the vessels of Amsterdam, exclusively, the enjoyment of the advantages granted in the preceding article, his Majesty declares, that the captains of the said vessels shall be

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1779 be supplied with a certificate from the Commissary of the Marine established at Amsterdam, and an attestation of the magistrates of the said city, asserting that the vessels were actually freighted by the inhabitants of that city, and that they went directly from their port for the place to which they were bound.

“ V. The said captains shall be bound, on their return, to appear before the said Commissary of the Marine, and to give sufficient proof that he landed his cargo in no other port or harbour of the republic than that of Amsterdam. His Majesty also enjoins the said Commissary to refuse, in future, any new certificate to those, who shall not be provided with good proof of their integrity, or who shall be convicted of having landed their cargo in any other port or harbour of the republic. &c.

“ Given in the King's Council, &c. at Versailles, January 14, 1779.”

From the memorial presented to the States General by Sir Joseph Yorke, in consequence of this order of the French King, we shall select the following passages.

“ The King of Great Britain, from the friendship he has for your High Mightinesses, &c. has hitherto foreborn interfering in the negotiation which has been carrying on, relative to the protection to be given to the transportation of all sorts of naval stores during the war, which is actually carrying on between your High Mightinesses and France; but the last proceedings of the French court forbid his keeping silence any longer; and his Majesty would think he wronged the ancient leagues between his crown and your republic, if he did not inform them to what danger they would expose themselves, by listening to proposals which will oblige them to infringe a neutrality which they have so often declared they wished to support, and which at once attack their independence, sap the basis of their government, and threaten nothing less than their disunion.

“ Your High Mightinesses are too well instructed, not to feel that a foreign power, who takes upon itself the right of granting particular favours to part of your government to the prejudice of the rest, can have no other view than to sow discord, and to break the ties which unite you; and that if other powers were to follow the same example, the republic would be torn to pieces by an internal combustion, and an universal anarchy would succeed.

“ Thus far the interest only of your High Mightinesses seems concerned; but when we perceive, that the end of all these intrigues is manifestly designed to cause the republic to quarrel with the King, and to bring on a war between your High Mightinesses and Great Britain, under the seducing pretence of a perfect neutrality and the interest of trade, the King finds himself obliged to lay before you the danger into which France wishes to plunge you.

“ What right has France to dictate to your High Mightinesses the arrangements you ought to make with England? It can only be found in the ambitious views of that power, which has made a league with the rebels of America, and is now endeavouring to bring other States into it with them.

“ What object can be more important or indispensable, than that of depriving the enemy of any materials which may enable them to redouble their efforts during the war? and how can a protection of those materials be reconciled to the alliances so often renewed between the two nations, or with the assurances of friendship which you are continually professing to the King? To prevent future bad consequences, and to assure the republic of the unequivocal friendship his Majesty entertains for the republic, he renews the promises made to them to maintain the liberties of legal trade to their subjects, agreeable to the orders given to the King's ships and privateers, notwithstanding the advantage which may result from it to the enemy; but his

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1779 Majesty cannot depart from the necessity he is under of excluding the transportation of naval stores to the ports of France, and particularly timber, even if they should be escorted by men of war.

“ The example which France has set, of favouring some members of the republic to the detriment of others, so directly contrary to the union and independence of your High Mightinesses, the King hopes never to be obliged to follow, unless a condescension to the views of France, obliges him to take that method of making amends to those members of the republic who are hurt by the partiality of his enemies.

“ The last edict published by the court of France, which excepts the cities of Amsterdam and Haerlem from certain duties imposed on the other members of the republic, to punish them for having made use of that sovereign right which belongs to them, cannot but shew all Europe the motives which have engaged France to league with America, &c.

“ (Signed,)

“ Hague, April 9, 1779.

“ JOSEPH YORKE.”

On the 23d of July, the French King published another ordinance, by which the whole province of Holland, as well as the cities of Amsterdam and Haerlem was exempted from the duties of freightage, and fifteen per cent. upon ships, &c. in the ports of France.

That an invasion of some part of this kingdom was projected by France, in the summer of this year, and an attempt to execute that project expected by England, was not denied by the former, and was openly acknowledged by the latter. On the 9th of July, the King's proclamation was published, ordering all cattle, &c. to be driven from the sea coast in case of invasion: and on the 22d of the same month Sir Joseph presented a memorial to the States General, which declares that France was making every possible preparation to invade the British islands, and on that account, demands of the republic to fulfil its engagements with Great Britain, in affording the succours stipulated in the treaties of 1678, and of which the *Casus Fœderis* is fully explained in the separate article of 1716. The States General, not paying any attention to this demand, the British minister at the Hague presented, on the 26th of November, another memorial on the same subject, which was treated with similar neglect.

In the mean time, Paul Jones, who commanded an American frigate and other vessels in the Congress service, took two English ships and carried them into the Texel. They were accordingly demanded to be given up by the British court, on the principle that Paul Jones was a pirate, and that, according to the custom of admiralties, all the captains of foreign armed vessels shall, upon their arrival, present their letters of marque or commission, and that such are to be treated as pirates whose letters are found to be illegal, for want of being granted by a sovereign power.

But their High Mightinesses, who had for some time been entirely governed by French politics, refused to give up the ships and justified the refusal by an answer to the following effect:

“ That they would in no respect take upon them to judge of the legality or illegality of those who have, on the open sea, taken any vessels which do not belong to their country; that they only open their ports to give them shelter from storms or other disasters, and that they oblige them to go to sea again with the prizes without suffering them to unload or dispose of any part of their cargoes, that they may be liable to be retaken in the same state in which they were taken: but do not think themselves authorised to pass judgment upon those prizes, or the person of Paul Jones, &c.”

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The combined fleets of France and Spain, which consisted of between sixty and seventy line of battle ships, and a proportionable quantity of inferior vessels, entered the Channel about the middle of August, and paraded two or three days before Plymouth, to the great alarm of the people, but attempted nothing. A strong easterly wind, which continued for several days, seems to have driven them out of the Channel; and on the last day of August, Sir Charles Hardy, the commander of the British fleet, which did not consist of more than thirty-six ships of the line, gained the entrance of the Channel, in fight of the combined fleets, without their being able to prevent him.

The great object of the English Admiral seems to have been, to bring them into the narrow part of the Channel, where he would have been able to engage them upon less disadvantageous terms; and where a defeat, or certain changes of wind, must have been productive of the most ruinous consequences to the enemy. The combined fleets pursued him as high up as Plymouth, and soon after repaired to Brest. Thus ended the expectations of the enemy, and the apprehensions of Great Britain. An attack upon Plymouth was certainly meditated, and the sickly state of the fleet, which had buried sometimes several hundreds in a day, was the principal reason for its returning to port; where, as soon as possible after their arrival, 7,000 sick were conveyed to the hospitals on shore. It may surely be considered as an uncommon instance of good fortune, that one of the greatest naval forces which had ever been assembled on the ocean, should hover on our coasts without doing us any injury; and that but a few days before its appearance, a great Jamaica fleet, consisting of 200 ships, should have arrived in England; while eight homeward bound East Indiamen, having timely notice of the danger, had taken refuge in the harbour of Limerick in Ireland.

Among the exertions which were at this time made by individual persons, and societies for the defence of the kingdom, it becomes us to mention, that the East India Company, with a spirit suited to its character, besides giving a considerable bounty towards raising 6,000 men for the naval service, made a noble offer to the crown, which was accepted, of building and furnishing three 74 gun ships, as an addition to the royal navy.

A very valuable Spanish ship, called the *N. S. de Pidat*, was taken in the autumn of this year by the Dart privateer of Dartmouth, of 14 guns; she was upwards of 600 tons, and mounted 16 guns; her cargo consisted of 142,117 silver dollars; 38,949 dollars in gold doubloons; 31 ingots of gold; 5 ingots of silver; 42 bales of fine beaver; 21,061 hides in the hair; 3 bales of fine wool; 1 bale of fine fur, &c.

To the honour of an enlightened age and an enlightened nation, the French minister of marine, by the particular order of his government, issued a protection (which was published in the French Gazettes, and communicated to the whole French navy,) to the British circum-navigators, Captain Cook of the *Resolution*, and Captain Clarke of the *Discovery*, who were now supposed to be on their return to Europe.

In this year, 59 ships were employed from England in the whale fishery to Davis's Straights and the Greenland Seas. The bounty was now at 30s. per ton. The Dutch employed 105 ships in the same trade, and within the same period.

There were 3,900 ships cleared outwards from Newcastle during this year, including their repeated voyages, 3,670 being coastwise, and 230 to foreign ports.

The want of a supply of American tar occasioned, at this time, a discovery of the utmost utility, and which will be a great saving to this country. Some gentlemen of Bristol

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1779 set up works for extracting the oil from pit-coal, used for making lamp-black; this oil was boiled down to the consistence of tar, which it exactly resembles in colour and quality, and is with difficulty distinguished from real tar. It possesses all the qualities of tar, for half the price, and is found in paying ships bottoms to be an excellent preservative against the worms. The oil is also boiled down to the consistence of pitch, and is found to be an excellent succedaneum for that article. After the oil is extracted from the coal, the residuum is a very good coke. But of the subject of coal tar we shall observe more at large at a future period, when we come to consider it in that state of perfection, to which it is at length brought by the active mind and philosophic research of the Earl of Dundonald.

By a list of the number of empty houses in the city, as returned, at this time, by the deputies of the several wards, the total appeared to be 1,104; the rents of which were calculated to amount to 26,375l.

The following are authentic extracts from the Corn Register, containing an account of all the corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland, during the space of one year.

EXPORTED.

1779.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat & Wheat Meal,	155,003	7,781
Wheat Flour,	48,186	1,795
Rye, —	3,162	37
Barley, —	4,948	2,583
Malt, —	74,287	—
Oats, —	11,291	5,635
Oatmeal, —	2,475	29
Beans, —	19,075	6,384
Peas, —	13,130	5,106
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat, —	256	—
Wheat Flour,	9,239	—
Barley and Bear,	937	—
Malt, —	3,022	—
Oats, —	219	—
Oatmeal,	2,638	—
Peas and Beans,	897	—

IMPORTED.

1779.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	3,508
Wheat Flour,	1,103
Rye, —	1,693
Barley, —	7,085
Oats, —	331,858
Oatmeal, —	669
Beans, —	14,591
Peas, —	29,154
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat Flour,	425
Oats, —	15,984

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 51,349l. 2s. 6d. The amount of the bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland, was 3,157l.

The duties on corn imported into England, amounted to 2,849l. 18s. 7d.; and in Scotland, to 139l. 18s. 2½d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, were, wheat, 4s. 2½d.; rye, 2s. 11d.; barley, 2s. 5¼d.; oats, 1s. 9d.; beans, 3s. 0¼d.

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1779 As, at such a period as this, the rise and fall of the public funds becomes too interesting a subject to be omitted in this work, we shall give the year's history of them; arranging opposite to each month, the highest and lowest prices which each stock bore during the course of that month.

	Bank Stock.	India Stock.	South Sea Stock	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	3 per ct. In. Ann.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	3 per ct. B. 1726	3½ p. ct. B. 1751	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. 1762	New Bills	Long Ann.	India Bonds.	Ann. 1778. Yrs. p.
January,	{ 107½ 110½	{ 130¼ 142	{ 70 —	{ 60⅞ 62½	{ 59½ 61⅞	{ 57⅞ 58¾	{ 61⅞ 63½	{ 60⅞ 62½	{ 61 —	{ 60¼ 60½	{ 62⅝ —	{ 61⅜ 64	{ 5¼ 6	{ 11¼ —	{ 1 1	{ 4 11
February,	{ 109¼ 110¾	{ 139¼ 143	{ — 70¼	{ — 60	{ 60⅞ 60⅞	{ 59 57⅝	{ 63⅞ 61	{ 62 59½	{ 61½ —	{ 59⅞ 60½	{ — 59⅞	{ 62 63⅝	{ 5⅜ 7¼	{ 18⅝ 18	{ 1 0	{ 14 5
March,	{ — 115½	{ 140 153½	{ — —	{ — 63⅞	{ 59⅞ 61⅞	{ 58 —	{ — 61½	{ 64 —	{ — 60½	{ 59 60½	{ 64 62⅝	{ 62 62⅝	{ 6⅜ 6⅜	{ 17⅞ 18⅞	{ 1 0	{ 2 12
April,	{ 114¾ 118½	{ 152¾ 156	{ — 72½	{ 60¾ 63¼	{ 60¼ 64¼	{ — 59½	{ — 64	{ — 65¼	{ 60 61½	{ — 63½	{ 62⅝ 64⅝	{ — 64⅝	{ 8 7½	{ 17⅞ 18⅞	{ 0 1	{ 17 6
May,	{ — 112¾	{ — 151½	{ — —	{ — 61¾	{ 62½ 62½	{ 59½ 62½	{ 62½ 62½	{ 62⅝ 62⅝	{ 61¼ 61¼	{ 61¼ 61¼	{ 63 63	{ 63 63	{ 7¼ 7¼	{ 18¼ 18¼	{ 1 1	{ 14 15
June,	{ — 106¾	{ — 141½	{ 71 70	{ — 58⅝	{ — 60½	{ — 56¾	{ 63 59	{ 63¼ 60	{ 61½ 60⅞	{ 61½ 60½	{ 63¼ 62½	{ 63¼ 60⅞	{ — 11½	{ — 18½	{ 1 0	{ 15 4
July,	{ — 109	{ — 138¼	{ — 69½	{ — 60⅞	{ — 59⅞	{ — 57½	{ 61½ 61½	{ 59⅞ 59⅞	{ — 59¼	{ 59¼ 59¼	{ 62 62	{ 62 62	{ 10 10	{ 17⅞ 17⅞	{ 1 1	{ 8 11⅞
August,	{ — 111½	{ — 139	{ — —	{ — 61½	{ 60¼ 60¼	{ 58¾ 58¾	{ 62⅝ 62⅝	{ 61¼ 61¼	{ — 59½	{ 59½ 61½	{ — 62⅝	{ — 62⅝	{ 9¾ 10½	{ — 18½	{ 1 1	{ 12 6
September,	{ 111¼ 114	{ — 143¼	{ 71 —	{ — 62½	{ 60½ 61½	{ — 58⅞	{ 62¼ —	{ — 62⅝	{ — 60⅞	{ — 62¼	{ 61 62¼	{ 63⅞ 62⅞	{ — 11⅝	{ — 18	{ 1 0	{ 12 15
October,	{ 113¼ 109⅝	{ 142¾ 144¾	{ — —	{ — 60¼	{ — 61⅞	{ — 57	{ — 61	{ — 62	{ — 60½	{ 60⅞ 60⅞	{ 60½ 62⅞	{ — —	{ — —	{ — 18⅞	{ 0 1	{ 16 6
November,	{ 110 110¾	{ 144½ 144¾	{ 71½ —	{ — 59⅞	{ — 60½	{ — 57¾	{ 61½ 60¼	{ 61¾ 61¾	{ — 61⅞	{ 60½ 61⅞	{ 62 61⅞	{ 60⅝ 61⅞	{ 11⅞ 11½	{ 18¼ 18½	{ 1 1	{ 8 1
December,	{ 110 107½	{ 144 143¾	{ — —	{ — 60⅞	{ 60⅞ 60⅞	{ 57⅞ —	{ 60 61⅝	{ — 61⅝	{ — —	{ — 61¾	{ 60½ 61⅝	{ 60⅝ 61⅝	{ — 5¼	{ 18 18⅞	{ 0 1	{ 15 5

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the parliamentary sessions of this year.

For allowing the importation of fine Italian organised thrown silk, for a limited time.

For the better preservation of the oyster fishery at Whitstable.

For the better government of his Majesty's ships, vessels, and forces at sea.

For the better supply of mariners and seamen to serve in his Majesty's navy.

For allowing the importation of certain goods, sold to foreigners, in British built ships.

For laying additional duties on certain goods under the inspection of the commissioners of excise and customs.

For the better encouraging the white herring fishery.

For better encouraging the Irish linen manufactory.

For regulating lottery-office keepers.

To repeal so much of several acts of Parliament, as prohibit the growth and produce of tobacco in Ireland, and to permit the importation of tobacco of the growth and produce of that kingdom into Great Britain, &c.

For granting a bounty upon the importation into this kingdom of hemp of the growth of Ireland, for a limited time.

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For granting a drawback of the duties imposed, by an act of the last session of Parliament, upon all foreign wines exported from Great Britain to any British colony in America, or to any British settlement in the East Indies.

For better securing the duties on starch.

To prevent frauds by private distillers.

To prevent frauds and abuses in the payment of wages to persons employed in the bone and thread-lace manufactory.

For the preservation of the river Lee.

For taking off the duties upon all salt used in curing pilchards.

For discontinuing the duties on cotton wool, the growth and product of the British colonies in America.

For allowing the importation of goods into this kingdom from Asia and Africa.

To amend the act for laying a tax on auctions and sales.

For granting to his Majesty additional duties on vellum, parchment and paper.

For vesting in the East India Company, for a limited time, certain territorial acquisitions obtained in India.

For removing certain difficulties with respect to the more speedy and effectual manning of his Majesty's navy, for a limited time.

For granting a free trade, &c. to Ireland.

To prevent the clandestine conveyance of sugar, &c. from America into Great Britain, &c.

A bill to prevent smuggling, also passed in this session, from which we have selected the following abstracts :

" A penalty of 300*l.* is laid on any master of a ship coming from abroad, having more than 100 pounds weight of tea on board, (not being an East India ship) or more than 100 gallons of foreign spirits, in casks under 60 gallons, (besides two gallons for each seaman on board).

" Foreign spirits imported from any part of Europe, in a vessel containing less than 60 gallons, are forfeited, with the ship, furniture, &c.

" When any tea, coffee, or goods liable to forfeiture, is found on board any ship coming from foreign parts, at anchor, or hovering within two leagues of the coast, the ship, if not above 200 tons, is forfeited, with her furniture, &c.

" Every person who shall sell coffee, tea, cocoa nuts, or make or sell chocolate, must paint over his door, ' dealer in coffee, &c.' on penalty of 200*l.*

" Every importer or dealer in foreign spirits must paint over his door, ' importer of, or ' dealer in foreign spirits,' on penalty of 50*l.*

" Every dealer in tea, foreign spirits, &c. who shall buy any of the said goods of any person who has not the words aforesaid over his door, is liable to an additional penalty of 100*l.*

" Every person, not a dealer, who shall buy any tea, spirits, &c. of any person that has not the words aforesaid over his door, shall forfeit 10*l.*

" All foreign thread-lace imported, to be marked at each end at the custom-house, and persons possessed of foreign lace may have it marked at the nearest custom-house, making oath that the duties were paid.

" All foreign thread-lace, not marked, will be forfeited ; and any person counterfeiting the mark, or that shall sell or have in his custody lace with a counterfeit mark, will forfeit 100*l.* and be adjudged to stand in the pillory two hours ; and their aiders, abettors, and assistants, will be liable to the same fine and punishment."

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 70,000 seamen, including 17,389 marines, ordnance, &c.	3,640,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, including half-pay, &c.	369,882	6	1
Towards building and repairing ships of war,	579,187	0	0
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	37,206	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
For 30,346 land-forces, including 3,213 invalids, &c.	833,911	18	6
For the militia and three regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	610,882	5	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	85,760	17	2
For additional militia companies,	5,421	18	6
For cloathing of ditto,	2,656	4	0
For the charge of several augmentations to his Majesty's forces,	159,653	3	4
For a regiment of fencibles to be raised in North Britain, &c.	19,584	2	0
To make good the charge of forming three regiments of light dra- goons, &c. out of certain light troops,	6,246	5	6
For an augmentation to a corps of Royal Highland Emigrants, &c.	4,113	6	8
For completing the whole pay of certain regiments, which of late years have been paid in part of the revenues of Ireland, and are now in North America,	63,195	11	10
For the difference of pay between the British and Irish establishment of certain regiments, &c.	52,923	1	6
For maintaining forces and garrisons out of the kingdom,	1,103,118	11	0
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,074	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy,	367,203	9	10
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau,	35,441	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck,	17,498	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	93,947	15	8
For provisions for the foreign troops serving in America,	48,668	3	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,683	14	0
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anspach, &c.	39,644	14	3
To make good a deficiency in the sums voted for the troops of the Margrave of Anspach, in 1778,	7,958	10	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbst, with the subsidy, &c.	16,630	11	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	2,026,137	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	395,438	15	4
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1778,	521,935	13	5
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John,	3,250	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	2,900	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	4,796	0	0
Ditto of East Florida,	4,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	4,900	0	0
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	87,703	8	4
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	628	2	11
Carried forward,	11,350,133	10	1

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	11,350,133	10	1
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	103,127	14	2
To the Levant Company,	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,995	0	0
For the augmentation of the salaries of the puisne judges,	3,600	0	0
For ditto of the Chief Baron of the Exchequer,	500	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	32,968	2	8
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	13,586	7	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	60,527	3	6
On account of general surveys in North America,	2,041	0	0
To James Berkenhout, Esq. and Thomas Clarke, of the town of Leeds, dyers, on a proper discovery to be made by them, for the use of the public, of their method of dying scarlet and crimson, as well as other colours on linen and cotton,	5,000	0	0
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills,	1,000,000	0	0
For ditto,	500,000	0	0
For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1778,	490,000	0	0
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency of the fund for paying certain annuities, &c.	40,540	0	0
To replace to ditto, the like sum paid out of the same, on account of certain other annuities, &c.	98,891	3	8
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of the year 1778,	66,744	4	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Deficiency in the land-tax,	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax,	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	15,729,654	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.			
	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	7,490,000	0	0
From the surplus of the stamp duties, &c.	15,297	10	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
By certain surplusses of the sinking fund,	2,071,854	13	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto,	1,900,000	0	0
Certain monies remaining in the Exchequer, subject to the disposition of Parliament,	2,763	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	15,729,915	4	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Supplies granted,	15,729,654	5	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Excess of provisions,	260	18	9

A vote

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1779 ~~17~~ A vote of credit for one million was also granted this session, and is charged on the next aids.

The additional public debt funded and provided for this year, amounted to seven millions; the interest of which, at 3 per cent. per annum, is	£.	s.	d.
	210,000	0	0
The additional annuity of 3l. 15s. per cent. per annum, for 29 years, amounted to	—	—	—
	262,500	0	0
Total amount,	472,500	0	0

This sum was raised in the following manner:—

An additional duty of 5 per cent. on the full produce of the excise and customs; beer and ale, soap, candles, and hides excepted,	282,109	0	0
A tax on post-horses, of 1d. per horse, per mile,	164,250	0	0
An additional duty of 5 per cent. on cambric,	36,000	0	0
Total of new taxes,	482,359	0	0
Interest of the additional public debt funded,	472,500	0	0
Excess of new taxes,	9,859	0	0

The number of christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, &c. from December 15, 1778, to December 14, 1779, is as follows:

CHRISTENED.		BURIED.	
Males,	8,640	Males,	10,208
Females,	8,129	Females,	10,212
Total,	16,769	Total,	20,420

1780 An event which happened on the first day of this year, afforded some reason to expect that hostilities would take place between Great Britain and Holland before the conclusion of it.

Of those states whose conduct was hostile to this country during her contest with the American colonies, there was not one, all circumstances of relation between the two powers considered, which so immediately merited an inimical return as that of Holland. Since the commencement of this unfortunate dispute, a clandestine commerce had been carried on between the Dutch and Americans, which was extremely advantageous to the latter. The encouragement given to the revolted colonies was without reserve or the shadow of concealment.—They were not only supplied with whatever Holland could afford them, but an open and ready respect was shewn to the American flag, in a manner incompatible with the honour and dignity of Great Britain.

Memorials, as we have already seen, had been frequently presented by Sir Joseph Yorke to the States-General concerning this unfriendly conduct in their subjects; and in one of them, it had been hinted rather forcibly, that the resentment of the court of London would follow a further infringement of that good faith which ought to bind all states in friendship with each other. To such remonstrances, indecisive answers, framed with much exterior respect, were returned;

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1780 returned; but the correspondence so prejudicial to the interests of Great Britain, still continued to be carried on without any change or diminution.

On the commencement of hostilities with France, this insidious conduct on the part of Holland towards Great Britain, became more active, and even more apparent, than it had hitherto been. The dock-yards of France were supplied with all kinds of materials for the construction and equipment of fleets, with as much care and diligence as if his Most Christian Majesty and the states of Holland had been engaged in the closest alliance against Great Britain.

It was natural for the British court to feel resentment at such unprovoked ill-treatment; but went no further than to give orders for the seizure of such Dutch vessels as were found to be laden with naval stores, &c. for the French ports: and, in order to take away all reasonable pretences of complaint from the Dutch, the British government, instead of making prizes of the vessels laden with these hostile cargoes, adopted the generous determination of a former war, to purchase, at a fair valuation, all the naval stores that were on board the Dutch vessels brought into the ports of Great Britain, to pay the freight of the cargoes, and to indemnify the proprietors in all the just expences and damages occasioned by the detention of their vessels.

While, however, the court of Great Britain was making frequent complaints of the injurious and faithless obstinacy with which the Dutch merchants continued to furnish the French with naval stores,—they, on the other hand, presented a memorial to the States, remonstrating against the seizure of their vessels employed in that business, and requiring such a protection as would enable them to prosecute it in safety.

France, in the mean time, sensible that such resources as came through the medium of Holland, were essentially necessary to the support of her marine, insisted, in a very peremptory manner, that this branch of the Dutch trade should be protected by the States, as well as every other; and threatened to consider a relaxation of the demands made upon Great Britain by Holland, on this subject, as an infraction of the neutrality which Holland was bound to observe between France and Great Britain, and as evident proof of partiality to the latter power.

In order, however, to encourage the importation of naval stores, a regulation had been issued in France, by which advantages were granted to neutral vessels as might induce them to supply its navy with those materials necessary for its equipment: but, on the States-General not complying with the requisition of the French ministry in the manner it had proposed, these advantages were revoked, in respect to the subjects of the United Provinces, as we have related in the history of last year; with an exception, however, in favour of Amsterdam, which had warmly espoused the cause of France, and demanded of the States the armament of a squadron for the protection of its navigation to that kingdom, against the British cruizers.

The court of France must have been very conscious of its powerful influence in the states of Holland, to have assumed the power of prescribing to them in what manner they should observe their treaties with Great Britain: indeed, the French faction was at this time so prevalent, that such an insulting act of pretended authority was not only received without resentment, but represented as founded in particular friendship and general justice. On the other hand, the conduct of the British government was considered by the same party as unjustifiable, and as assuming to itself an exclusive right of framing laws for the commercial correspondence between different states.

When

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When Spain acceded to the confederacy against Great Britain, similar causes of complaint arose, and similar representations were made to the States-General: but the difficulties wherein we were involved, seemed to have infused into the Dutch an inveterate desire to add to the distresses of a nation to whom they owed their political existence, as a free people, and whose friendly and powerful hand had frequently interposed, and delivered them from the greatest dangers.

At length, the requisitions of France found a compliance; and a squadron of men of war was appointed by the States of the United Provinces to convoy a fleet of merchantmen laden with naval stores for the French navy. On the intelligence of their being sailed arriving in England, a squadron was immediately dispatched, under the command of Commodore Fielding, to intercept them. On meeting the Dutch fleet, he requested the usual permission to search them; which being refused, in direct violation of the right established by treaty, he sent his boats, with strict orders to insist upon the examination of their cargoes: these boats were fired upon by the Dutch commander, Count Byland, and prevented from executing the business on which they had been ordered; whereupon Commodore Fielding fired a shot a-head of the Dutch admiral, who returned it with a broadside; the English commodore replied with another, when the former immediately struck his colours. Many of the Dutch ships, however, that were in the predicament which occasioned the contest, had, from the length and darkness of the night, and by keeping close to the shore, escaped the danger, and proceeded without interruption to the French ports; those that remained with naval stores on board, were stopped; and the Dutch admiral was then informed, that he was at liberty to hoist his colours, and prosecute his voyage: but he accepted only of the former part of the offer made him, refusing to separate from his convoy; and, accordingly, with the whole fleet which remained with him, accompanied the British squadron to Spithead.

The complaints of the States-General were very violent on this occasion; nevertheless, there cannot be a doubt but that they had been guilty of a manifest violation of subsisting treaties, by which the right of search, in such instances wherein it had been exercised by Great Britain, was incontrovertibly established. But, at this moment, Holland was become a tool of France, and the influence of the latter was so commanding in the councils of the former, that while its subjects were permitted to assist the enemies of Great Britain in the most open and decided manner, they were prohibited, under very severe penalties, to furnish the garrison of Gibraltar with provisions.

This conduct betrayed a most unaccountable forgetfulness of the ties by which they were, and had been, so long connected with Great Britain, and of the acknowledged necessity of preserving that balance of power in Europe, in which Holland was more immediately concerned than any state upon the continent. It also proved with what success the enemies of England had exerted themselves in setting aside the political system that had so long prevailed in the republic, to the interrupting that intimate and natural friendship with the British nation, the utility of which to Holland had been demonstrated by the experience of two centuries.

Incensed at such provocations, the court of Great Britain was determined to force an explicit answer from the States-General respecting their ultimate intentions to this country.—The British ambassador at the Hague was therefore directed to renew the requisition for succours, &c.; and he accordingly, on the 21st of March, presented a memorial to the following purport:—

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“ High and Mighty Lords,

“ The King, my Master, has always cultivated the friendship of your High Mightinesses, and has always considered the alliance which has so long subsisted between the two nations, as founded on the wisest principles, &c. The principal objects of that alliance, supported upon the strong basis of common interest, are the security and prosperity of the two states, the maintenance of public tranquillity, and the preservation of that just equilibrium, which has been so often troubled by the ambitious policy of the House of Bourbon.

“ When the court of Versailles, in direct violation of the public faith, and the common right of all sovereigns, broke the peace, by a league made with his Majesty's rebellious subjects, which was avowed and formally declared by the Marquis de Noailles; when France, by immense preparations, manifested a design to annihilate the maritime power of England, the King thought your High Mightinesses too sensible not to see that the welfare of the republic was so closely connected with that of Great Britain, as to induce you to hasten to its succour. One of his Majesty's first cares was to inform you of all the circumstances of that unjust war; and, in the critical situation in which the King found himself, he did not forget the interests of his ancient allies; but, on the contrary, shewed the sincerest desire to favour the trade and free navigation of the republic as much as the welfare of his people would permit. He even refrained a long time to claim the succours stipulated by treaty; and, though he fulfilled his own engagements, did not require the same from your High Mightinesses.—The reclamation in question was not made till the united forces of France and Spain were ready to fall upon England at once, and attempt a landing with a formidable fleet. Although they were frustrated in that enterprize, the King's enemies are still meditating the same projects; and it is by the express order of his Majesty, that the underwritten again renews, in the most formal manner, the demand of the succours stipulated by different treaties, and particularly that of 1716.

“ Hitherto your High Mightinesses have been silent upon this essential article; whilst you insisted upon a forced interpretation of the treaty of commerce of the year 1674, against the abuse of which Great Britain at all times protested. This interpretation cannot be reconciled with the clear and particular stipulation of the secret article of the treaty of peace of the same year. An article of a treaty of commerce, cannot annul so essential an article of a treaty of peace; and both are expressly comprehended in the principal treaty of alliance of 1678, by which your High Mightinesses are obliged to furnish his Majesty with the required succours. You are too wise, and too just, not to feel that all the engagements between powers ought to be mutually and reciprocally observed; and, although they were agreed upon at different periods, do alike bind the contracting parties. This incontestable principle is the more applicable here, as the treaty of 1716 renews all the anterior engagements between the crown of England and the republic, and, in a manner, includes them in one.

“ The underwritten had further orders to declare to your High Mightinesses, that he was ready to enter into a conference with you to regulate, in an amicable manner, all that was necessary to prevent a misunderstanding, and every other disagreeable event, by concerting measures which should be both equitable and advantageous to both countries; but this amicable overture was refused in a manner as unexpected and extraordinary, as unusual between two friendly powers: and without paying any attention either to the repeated public or private representations relative to convoys, you not only granted these convoys to different sorts of naval stores, but more particularly ordered, that a certain number of men of war should be ready,

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1780 for the future, to convoy naval ammunition of all sorts to the ports of France; and that at a time when the subjects of the republic enjoyed, by treaty, a liberty and extent of commerce far beyond what the right of nations grants to neutral powers.

“ This resolution, and the orders given to Rear-admiral Count Byland, to oppose, by force, the searching of the merchant-ships, brought on an incident which the friendship of the King desired much to prevent: but it is notorious that that admiral, in consequence of his instructions, fired first at the boats under English colours, which were sent to examine the ships in the manner prescribed by the treaty of 1674.

“ This then is a manifest aggression,—a direct violation of that same treaty which your High Mightinesses seem to look upon as the most sacred of all. His Majesty had beforehand made reiterated representations upon the necessity and justice of the examination, which had taken place in all analogous circumstances, and is fully authorized by the treaty. They were apprized in London that a number of vessels were at the Texel, laden with naval stores, and particularly with masts and large ship-building timber, ready to sail for France, with, or under Dutch convoy. The event proved the truth of these informations, as several of these vessels were found under the said convoy; and the greatest part of them escaped, and furnished France with very efficacious supplies, of which they stood in great need. Whilst your High Mightinesses thus assisted the King's enemies, by favouring the transportation of these succours, you imposed an heavy penalty on those subjects of the republic who should supply the garrison of Gibraltar with provisions, although that place was comprehended in the general guarantee of all the British possessions in Europe; and although, at that moment, Spain had disturbed the trade of the republic in an unprecedented and outrageous manner.

“ It is not only on these occasions that the conduct of your High Mightinesses towards the King, and towards the enemies of his Majesty, holds up a striking contrast to the impartial eyes of all the world:—No one can be ignorant of what passed in the affair of Paul Jones;—the asylum granted to that pirate, was directly contrary to the treaty of Breda, in 1667, and to your placard, in 1756:—Besides which, although your High Mightinesses have kept, and still continue to keep, an absolute silence relative to the just reclamations of his Majesty, yet, upon the simple request of the King's enemies, you assured them you would observe a strict and unlimited neutrality, without any exceptions of the ancient engagements of the republic, founded on the most solemn treaties.

“ Notwithstanding all this, the King is willing to persuade himself, that all which has passed, is less to be attributed to the real sentiments of your High Mightinesses, than to the artifices of his enemies; who, after sowing discord between the members of the states, have, by threats and promises, endeavoured to set them against their ancient ally.

“ His Majesty cannot think that your High Mightinesses have resolved to abandon a system that the republic has kept to for more than a century with so much success and glory.

“ But if such is the resolution of your High Mightinesses,—if you are determined to break the alliance with Great Britain, by refusing to fulfil your engagements, things will bear a new face: the King will see any such change with a very sensible regret, but the consequences will be necessary and inevitable. If, by an act of your High Mightinesses, the republic should cease to be an ally of his Majesty, the relations between the two nations are totally changed, and they have no other connections, no other ties, than those which subsist between neutral powers in friendship and unity. Every treaty being reciprocal, if you will not fulfil your engagements, the consequence must be, that those on the part of the King cease to be any longer binding,

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1780 binding. It is in departing from these incontestable principles, that his Majesty has ordered the underwritten to declare to your High Mightinesses, in the most amicable, but yet the most serious manner, that if, contrary to his just expectations, your High Mightinesses do not, in the course of three weeks, from the day of the representation of this memorial, give a satisfactory answer relative to the succours reclaimed eight months ago, his Majesty will consider such conduct as breaking off the alliance on the part of your High Mightinesses, and will not look upon the United Provinces in any other light than on the footing of other neutral powers, unprivileged by treaty; and, consequently, will suspend, till further orders, all the particular stipulations of the treaties made in favour of the subjects of the republic, particularly those of the treaty of 1674, and will only hold to the general principles of the right of nations, which serves as a rule for neutral and unprivileged powers.

(Signed) "JOSEPH YORKE."

To this memorial the following provisional answer was given:—

"That their High Mightinesses are very desirous to coincide with the wishes of his British Majesty, by giving a positive answer to the memorial delivered by his ambassador; but that their High Mightinesses foresee, that from the nature of the government of the republic, it is impossible to return an answer in three weeks time; as the memorial must be deliberated upon by the different provinces, and their resolutions waited for.—That they are assured his Majesty would not wish rigorously to keep to the before-mentioned time; but that their High Mightinesses might be able to conclude upon an answer conformable to the constitution of the republic, in which they had no right to make any alteration; and they promise to accelerate the deliberations upon that head as much as possible."

This reply was considered, and with great justice, by the British ministry, as a mere evasion. The States-General had already been eight months in possession of the request now repeated; so that it could be considered as nothing less than an insult to require a longer time to deliberate upon the business. It was therefore determined by the court of Great Britain, to put in force, conformably to the notice which had been given, the suspension of the privileges enjoyed by the subjects of Holland, in virtue of the concessions made in their favour by former treaties.—The following declaration therefore was published on the 17th of April:—

"Whereas, since the commencement of the war in which Great Britain is engaged by the unprovoked aggression of France and Spain, repeated memorials have been presented by his Majesty's ambassador to the States-General of the United Provinces, demanding the succours stipulated by treaty; to which requisition, though strongly called upon in the last memorial, of the 21st of March, their High Mightinesses have given no answer, nor signified any intention of compliance therewith: and, whereas by the non-performance of the clearest engagements, they desert the alliance that has so long subsisted between the crown of Great Britain and the republic, and place themselves in the condition of a neutral power, bound to this kingdom by no treaty, every principle of wisdom and justice requires that his Majesty should consider them henceforward as standing only in that distant relation in which they have placed themselves.—His Majesty, therefore, having taken this matter into his royal consideration, doth, by and with the advice of his privy council, judge it expedient to carry into immediate execution those intentions which were formally notified in the memorial presented by his ambassador on the 21st of March last, and previously signified in an official verbal declaration, made by Lord Viscount Stormont, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, to Count Welderen, envoy extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the republic, nearly about two months

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1780 months before the delivery of the aforesaid memorial.—For these causes, his Majesty, by and with the advice of his privy council, doth declare, that the subjects of the United Provinces are henceforward to be considered upon the same footing with those of other neutral states not privileged by treaty; and his Majesty doth hereby suspend, provisionally, and till further order, all the particular stipulations respecting the freedom of navigation and commerce, in time of war, of the subjects of the States-General, contained in the several treaties now subsisting between his Majesty and the republic, and more particularly those contained in the marine treaty between Great Britain and the United Provinces, concluded at London, December 11, 1674.

“ From a humane regard to the interests of individuals, and a desire to prevent their suffering by any surprize, his Majesty, &c. doth declare, that the effect of this his Majesty's order shall take place at the following terms, viz.

“ In the Channel and the North seas, twelve days after the date hereof.

“ From the Channel, the British seas, and the North seas, as far as the Canary islands inclusively, either in the ocean or Mediterranean, the term shall be six weeks, from the aforesaid date.

“ Three months from the said Canary islands as far as the equinoctial line or equator.

“ And, lastly, six months beyond the said line or equator, and in all other parts of the world, without any exception, or other more particular description of time and place.

(Signed)

“ STEPHEN COTTREL.”

The beginning of this year was also marked by a very extraordinary measure adopted in the north of Europe, where a power, which, however great in itself, was of little maritime consequence, now took upon her to dictate a new code of maritime laws to mankind, in many respects essentially differing from those which had, for several hundred years, been established amongst commercial nations, and went directly to the destruction of that sovereignty or pre-eminence on the ocean, which had been so long claimed and maintained by this country: this was the manifesto or declaration issued by the court of Petersburg, on the 26th of February, to the courts of London, of Versailles, and of Madrid; which was the first step towards forming that powerful naval confederacy between the northern powers, to which most of the neutral states afterwards acceded.—Of a transaction so new to the commercial world, we shall borrow the following brief account from the pen of a gentleman, who, from situation and talents, was perfectly qualified to write on the subject.

“ The jealousy entertained by the maritime powers of Europe of the pre-eminence exercised by Great Britain at sea, had operated hitherto but covertly and indirectly. Expecting that the union of the House of Bourbon would have proved sufficient to give it an effectual check, they had remained passive spectators of a contest, which they imagined would not fail to terminate to the disadvantage of this country: so great and potent a combination as that of France, Spain, and America, seemed to promise, without any additional aid, to bring the maritime strength of Britain to that state of diminution, which was the general wish and aim of European politics.

“ But when it was found that the spirit and exertions of this country were such, as afforded little hope that even this mighty confederacy would succeed in compassing this long desired object, a determination was taken, by all the remaining powers to form a naval combination, in order to effect it.

“ Pretences

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“ Pretences for a measure of this kind were not wanting.—The activity and number of British privateers had rendered them universal objects of terror, not only to the commercial shipping of their enemies, but to the numerous vessels belonging to other powers, that were employed in furnishing them with such articles as were not consistent with a strict and fair neutrality. Goods coming under this description, in the plainest and most incontrovertible manner, were nevertheless often made a subject of litigation, and the letter of treaties was wrested, in order to put a wrong interpretation upon them, in evident contradiction of the spirit by which they were dictated.

“ As the British ministry insisted, on the other hand, on the propriety and lawfulness of seizing articles of this nature, contentions arose between Great Britain and the various powers to which the vessels laden with such articles belonged. Indeed, the right of preventing supplies from being carried to the enemy was so manifest, that nothing but an inclination to make use of any opportunity to quarrel with this nation, could have prompted that eagerness with which all Europe seemed to conspire in refusing to admit the validity of arguments upon which the conduct of the British government was founded.

“ The principles alleged in its defence were derived from ancient and long received practice: they had, for ages, constituted that part of the law of nations which relates to the usages established in civilized countries in times of war. They formed so powerful a barrier to the designs in agitation against Great Britain, that while their validity was allowed, no just complaint could be framed against the conduct of the British ministry.

“ The only method therefore to arraign it, was to call in question the rectitude of those principles, and to establish a new system of maritime laws, contrary to those which had been so long in force. By these means, the pretences of Britain would be overthrown, and the right she claimed of intercepting the supplies carried to her enemies would be entirely annulled.

“ That power which took the lead in the promulgation of this new system was Russia;—a power that ought, according to all the rules of what seemed just policy, to have acted a friendly part to Britain, and to have discountenanced a measure which tended so manifestly to injure her.

“ It was under the protection of these ancient maxims and customs, that Britain maintained the arduous conflict against so many powerful enemies, with no small success:—It was for that reason alone, that Europe determined they should undergo a total alteration.

“ Whatever might be the secret motives for such an extraordinary determination in the court of Russia, it was with just surprize the court of Great Britain received notice that it had formed a code of naval regulations, which militated, in the most direct manner, against the practices hitherto observed in Europe, and were evidently levelled at the maritime power of this country.

“ It was a matter of peculiar astonishment that Russia should be at the head of a combination so injurious to Great Britain. The favours she had received from the British government, in her late war with the Turks, and still more, the commercial benefits resulting from a connection with this country, seemed to secure the good-will of Russia, and even its assistance, in case of necessity: little therefore was it expected, that it should prove the first of all European potentates in that inimical declaration, the intent of which was to deprive Great Britain of the principal resources that enabled her to maintain her ground in the midst of so many difficulties.

“ In

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“ In taking a step of such an unprecedented nature, Russia had previously used the precaution of securing the concurrence of all her neighbours :—So formidable was the impression of the power and spirit of England, notwithstanding the perils which surrounded her, that none of the northern powers durst presume, alone and unsupported by the others, to enter the lists against her in such an hostile and decisive manner.

“ Denmark and Sweden accordingly joined with Russia in this naval confederacy ; to which Holland, and even Portugal, were invited to accede : so prevalent and so powerful was the universal malevolence to Britain, and so unquestionably was it reputed the interest of Europe to co-operate in the humiliation of her maritime grandeur. In this manner was formed that association of the neutral powers of Europe against this country, which assumed the denomination of *THE ARMED NEUTRALITY*.”

As this transaction was, in all its circumstances, so very extraordinary, and produced such a bold innovation on the commercial law of nations, we shall not only give the convention for an armed neutrality at large, but shall precede it with the different declarations of the neutral states, and the answers of the belligerent powers.

Declaration of the Empress of Russia, to the courts of London, of Versailles, and of Madrid :

“ The Empress of Russia has so well manifested the sentiments of justice, of equity, and of moderation, by which she is animated, and has given such convincing proofs, during the war which she sustained against the Ottoman Porte, of the strict regard which she has for the rights of neutrality, and the liberty of commerce in general, that she may fairly appeal to the testimony of all Europe. This conduct, as well as the principles of impartiality which she has manifested during this present war, might have inspired her with the just confidence, that her subjects would likewise peaceably enjoy the fruit of their industry, and of the advantages belonging to all neutral nations. Experience has, however, proved the contrary : not these considerations, nor the regard due and prescribed by the universal law of nations, have prevented her Imperial Majesty's subjects from being often molested in their navigation, and retarded in their operations, by the ships and privateers of the belligerent powers.

“ These vexations offered to the liberty of commerce in general, and to that of Russia in particular, are of such a nature, as to excite the attention of sovereigns, and of all neutral nations. Her Imperial Majesty finds herself under the obligation of freeing herself therefrom, by all means compatible with her dignity, and the welfare of her subjects :—But before she means to come to any serious measures, and in order sincerely to prevent all new misunderstandings, her Imperial Majesty has thought it just and equitable to expose to the eyes of all Europe, the principles which she has adopted for her conduct, and which are the most proper to prevent all future disagreement. Her Imperial Majesty does this with so much the more confidence, as she finds these principles contained in the laws of the primitive people, which all nations have a right to claim, and which the belligerent powers cannot invalidate, without violating the laws of neutrality, and without disowning the maxims which they have adopted themselves, in their different treaties and public engagements. They are contained in the following points :—

“ I. That neutral ships shall enjoy a free navigation, even from port to port, and on the coasts of the belligerent powers.

“ II. That all effects belonging to the subjects of the said belligerent powers, shall be looked upon as free on board such neutral ships, except only such goods as are stipulated to be contraband.

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“ III. That

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“ III. That her Imperial Majesty, for the proper understanding of this, refers to the articles X. and XI. of her treaty of commerce with Great Britain, extending her obligations to all the other belligerent powers.

“ IV. That in order to determine what characterizes a port blocked up, that denomination shall not be granted but to such places before which there are actually a number of enemy's ships stationed near enough, so as to make its entry dangerous.

“ V. That these principles shall serve as rules in the judicial proceedings and sentences upon the legality of prizes.

“ Her Imperial Majesty, in manifesting those principles before all Europe, at the same time declares, that she is firmly resolved to maintain them, and in order to protect the honour of her flag, and the security of the commerce and navigation of her subjects against whomsoever; in consequence whereof, she has given an order to fit out a considerable part of her naval forces. This measure has, however, no influence on the strict and rigorous neutrality which her Imperial Majesty is resolved religiously to observe, and which she shall observe as long as she shall not be provoked and forced to depart from those principles of moderation and perfect impartiality. It is only in this extremity that her fleet will be ordered to act, wherever her honour, interest, and necessity shall require.

“ In giving this formal assurance, with all the frankness so congenial to her character, her Imperial Majesty cannot but expect that the belligerent powers, sensible of the sentiments of justice and equity with which she is animated, will contribute to the accomplishment of her salutary views, which tend so manifestly to the welfare of all nations, and to the advantages even of those at war; that in consequence thereof, they will provide their courts of admiralties, their officers, and commanders, with proper instructions, analogous and conformable to the principles here above-mentioned, and drawn from the primitive code of peoples, and so often adopted in their own conventions.

“ *Petersburg, February 26, 1780.*

(Signed) “ CATHARINA.”

And lower,

“ By order of her Imperial Majesty,

(Signed) “ PANIN.”

Declaration of the King of Denmark to the same courts :—

“ If the most exact and perfect neutrality, with the most regular navigation, and the most inviolable respect to treaties, could have kept free the commerce of the subjects of the King of Denmark and Norway from the inroads of the powers with whom he is at peace, free and independent, it would not be necessary to take measures to insure to his subjects that liberty to which they have the most incontrovertible right. The King of Denmark has always founded his glory and his grandeur upon the esteem and confidence of other people. It has been his rule, from the beginning of his reign, to testify to all the powers, his friends, a conduct the most capable of convincing them of his pacific intentions, and of his desire to contribute to the general happiness of Europe. His proceedings have always been conformable to these principles, against which nothing can be alleged; he has not, till now, addressed himself but to the powers at war to obtain a redress of his griefs; and he has never wanted moderation in his demands, nor acknowledgments, when they have received the success they deserved.—But the neutral navigation has been too often molested, and the most innocent commerce of his subjects too frequently troubled; so that the King finds himself obliged to take proper measures to assure to himself and allies, the safety of commerce and navigation, and the maintenance

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1780 nance of the inseparable rights of liberty and independence. If the duties of neutrality are sacred, the law of nations has also its rights, avowed by all impartial powers, established by custom, and founded upon equity and reason. A nation independent and neuter, does not lose by the wars of others the rights which she had before the war, because peace exists between her and all the belligerent powers. Without receiving or being obliged to follow the laws of either of them, she is allowed to follow, in all places, (contraband excepted) the traffic which she would have a right to do, if peace existed with all Europe, as it exists with her. The King pretends to nothing beyond what the neutrality allows him:—This is his rule, and that of his people; and the King cannot accord to the principle, that a power at war has a right to interrupt the commerce of his subjects. He thinks it due to himself and his subjects, faithful observers of these rules, and to the powers at war themselves, to declare to them the following principles, which he has always held, and which he will always avow and maintain, in concert with the Empress of all the Russias, whose sentiments he finds entirely conformable with his own.”

[Here follow the proposed principles of neutrality, exactly corresponding with those adopted by Russia.]

Declaration of the King of Sweden to the same courts:—

“ Ever since the beginning of the present war, the King has taken particular care to manifest his intentions to all Europe. He imposed upon himself the law of a perfect neutrality; he fulfilled all the duties thereof with the most scrupulous exactitude: and, in consequence thereof, he thought himself entitled to all the prerogatives naturally appertaining to the qualification of a sovereign perfectly neuter. But notwithstanding this, his commercial subjects have been obliged to claim his protection, and his Majesty has found himself under the necessity to grant it to them.

“ To effect this, the King ordered, last year, a certain number of men of war to be fitted out. He employed a part thereof on the coasts of his kingdom, and the rest served as convoys for the Swedish merchant-ships, in the different seas which the commerce of his subjects required them to navigate. He acquainted the several belligerent powers with these measures, and was preparing to continue the same during the course of this year, when other courts, who had likewise adopted a perfect neutrality, communicated their sentiments unto him, which the King found entirely conformable to his own, and tending to the same object.

“ The Empress of Russia caused a declaration to be delivered to the courts of London, Versailles, and Madrid, in which she acquainted them of her resolution to protect the commerce of her subjects, and to defend the universal rights and prerogatives of neutral nations.—This declaration was founded upon such just principles of the law of nations, and the subsisting treaties, that it was impossible to call them into question. The King found them entirely concordant with his own cause, and with the treaty concluded in the year 1666, between Sweden and France; and his Majesty could not forbear to acknowledge and to adopt the same principles, not only with regard to those powers with whom the said treaties are in force, but also with regard to such others as are already engaged in the present war, or may be involved therein hereafter, and with whom the King has no treaties to reclaim. It is the universal law; and when there are no particular engagements existing, it becomes obligatory upon all nations.

“ In consequence thereof, the King declares hereby again, that he will observe the same neutrality, and with the same exactitude as he has hitherto done. He will enjoin all his subjects, under rigorous pains, not to act in any manner whatever contrary to the duties which a

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1780 strict neutrality imposes upon them; but he will effectually protect their lawful commerce, by all possible means, whenever they carry on the same conformably to the principles here above-mentioned."

But previous to the court of Sweden's final accession to the neutral confederacy proposed by Russia, she required an explanation from that court relative to the following particulars:—

" I. How, and in what manner, a reciprocal protection and mutual assistance shall be given ?

" II. Whether each particular power shall be obliged to protect the general commerce of the whole; or, if in the mean time, it may employ a part of its armament in the protection of its own particular commerce ?

" III. If several of these combined squadrons should meet, or, for example, one or more of their vessels, what shall be the rule of their conduct towards each other, and how far shall the neutral protection extend ?

" IV. It seems essential to agree upon the manner in which representations shall be made to the powers at war, if, notwithstanding our measures, their ships of war, or armed vessels, should continue to interrupt our commerce in any manner.—Must these remonstrances be made in the general name of the united powers, or shall each particular power plead its own cause only ?

" V. Lastly, it appears essentially necessary to provide against this possible event,—where one of the united powers seeing itself driven to extremities against any of the powers actually at war, should claim the assistance of the allies in this convention to do her justice: in what manner can this be best concerted ?—A circumstance which equally requires a stipulation, that the reprisals, in that case, shall not be at the will of such party injured, but that the common voice shall decide: otherwise, an individual power might, at its pleasure, draw the rest, against their inclinations and interests, into disagreeable extremities, or break the whole league, and reduce matters into their original state, which would render the whole fruitless, and of no effect.

To these queries the court of Russia returned the following answer:—

" I. As to the manner in which protection and mutual assistance shall be granted, it must be settled by a formal convention, to which all the neutral powers will be invited; the principal end of which is, to insure a free navigation to the merchant-ships of all nations. Whenever such vessel shall have proved, from its papers, that it carries no contraband goods, the protection of a squadron, or vessels of war, shall be granted her, under whose care she shall put herself, and which shall prevent her being interrupted.—From hence it follows:

" II. That each power must concur in the general security of commerce. In the mean time, the better to accomplish this object, it will be necessary to settle, by means of a separate article, the places and distances which may be judged proper for the station of each power.—From that method will arise this advantage, that all the squadrons of the allies will form a kind of chain, and be able to assist each other: the particular arrangement to be confined only to the knowledge of the allies, though the convention, in all other points, will be communicated to the powers at war, accompanied with all the protestations of a strict neutrality.

" III. It is undoubtedly the principle of a perfect equality which must regulate this point. We shall follow the common mode with regard to safety.—In case the squadrons should meet and engage, the commanders will conform to the usages of the sea-service; because, as is observed above, the reciprocal protection, under these conditions, should be unlimited.

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“ IV. It seems expedient, that the representations mentioned in this article, be made by the party aggrieved; and that the ministers of the other confederate powers support those remonstrances in the most forcible and efficacious manner.

“ V. We feel all the importance of this consideration; and, to render it clear, it is necessary to distinguish the case.

“ If any one of the allied powers should suffer itself to be drawn in by motives contrary to the established principles of a neutrality and perfect impartiality, should injure its laws, or extend their bounds, it cannot certainly be expected that the others should espouse the quarrel; on the contrary, such a conduct would be deemed an abandoning the ties which united them. But if the insult offered to one of the allies should be hostile to the principles adopted and announced in the face of all Europe, or should be marked with the character of hatred and animosity, inspired by resentment, these common measures of the confederation, which have no other tendency than to make, in a precise and irrevocable manner, laws for the liberty of commerce, and the rights of every neutral nation,—then it shall be held indispensable for the united powers to make a common cause of it, (at sea only) without its being a ground-work for other operations, as these connections are purely maritime, having no other object than naval commerce and navigation.

“ From all that is said above, it evidently results, that the common will of all, founded upon the principles admitted and adopted by the contracting parties must alone decide, and that it will always be the fixed basis of the conduct and operations of this union. Finally, we shall observe, that these conventions suppose no other naval armament than what shall be conformable to circumstances, according as those shall render them necessary, or as may be agreed. It is probable that this agreement, once ratified and established, will be of the greatest consequence; and that the belligerent powers will find in it sufficient motives to persuade them to respect the neutral flag, and prevent their provoking the resentment of a respectable communion, founded under the auspices of the most evident justice, and the sole idea of which is received with the universal applause of all impartial Europe.”

The following answer was given by his Britannic Majesty to the declaration of the Empress of Russia:—

“ During the course of the war wherein his Britannic Majesty finds himself engaged, through the unprovoked aggression of France and Spain, he hath constantly manifested his sentiments of justice, equity, and moderation, in every part of his conduct. His Majesty hath acted towards friendly and neutral powers according to their own procedure respecting Great Britain, and conformably to the clearest principles generally acknowledged as the laws of nations, being the only law between powers where no treaties subsist, and agreeably to the tenor of his different engagements with other powers; those engagements have altered this primitive law, by mutual stipulations, proportioned to the will and convenience of the contracting parties.

“ Strongly attached to her Majesty of all the Russias, by the tie of reciprocal friendship and common interest, the King, from the commencement of those troubles, gave the most precise orders respecting the flag of her Imperial Majesty, and the commerce of her subjects, agreeably to the laws of nations, and the tenor of the engagements stipulated by his treaty of commerce with her, and to which he shall adhere with the most scrupulous exactness.

“ The orders to this intent have been renewed, and the utmost care will be taken for their strictest execution.

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"It may be presumed, that not the least irregularity will happen; but in case any infringement contrary to these repeated orders take place, the courts of admiralty, which in this, like all other countries, are established to take cognizance of such matters, and in all cases do judge solely by the laws of nations, and by the specific stipulations of different treaties, will redress every hardship in so equitable a manner, that her Imperial Majesty shall be perfectly satisfied, and acknowledge a like spirit of justice which she herself possesses."

Answer of the French King to the declaration of the Empress of Russia:—

"The war in which the King finds himself engaged, having no other object than his attachment to the principles of perfect liberty at sea, his Majesty could not but with great satisfaction behold the Empress of Russia adopting the same principles, and at the same time expressing a firm resolution to maintain them. What her Imperial Majesty claims from the belligerent powers, is nothing else than the rules prescribed to the French navy; the execution whereof is maintained with an exactitude known and applauded by all Europe.

"The freedom of commerce of neutral ships, restrained only in a very few cases, is the direct result of the law of nature, the safe-guard of nations, the relief even of those who are afflicted by the calamities of war. The King has therefore been always desirous to procure, not only to the subjects of the Empress of Russia, but also to those of all other states that have adopted a strict neutrality, the liberty to navigate the seas on the same conditions as are mentioned in the declaration, to which his Majesty is hereby giving an answer.

"The King flattered himself with having made a great step towards the general welfare, and with having prepared a glorious æra for his reign, in fixing, by his example, the rights which all belligerent powers might, and should acknowledge, as belonging to neutral ships. His hopes have not been decreased, since the Empress of Russia, in adopting the strictest neutrality, has declared herself for the same system, which the King maintains at the price of the blood of his people; and as she claims the same rights which his Majesty wishes to make the foundation of a maritime code of law.

"If it were necessary to issue fresh orders, that the ships of her Imperial Majesty's subjects might not be under any apprehension of being interrupted in their navigation by any of the King's subjects, his Majesty would be very ready to issue them; but the Empress of Russia will undoubtedly rely on his Majesty's dispositions, which are contained in the different regulations that have been published. They do not depend upon circumstances;—they are founded upon the law of nations;—and they are becoming a Prince who is happy enough to find always in the general prosperity the measure of that of his kingdom. The King only wishes that her Imperial Majesty would more explicitly fix the nature of merchandizes which shall be reputed contraband in times of war, and give more precise rules for the form of clearances, and other papers, wherewith the Russian ships shall be provided.

"With this precaution, his Majesty is well assured that no accident whatever will happen, which might make him repent to have rendered, as much as lay in his power, the condition of the Russian navigators as advantageous as it is possible in time of war. Other happy circumstances have already convinced both courts, at several times, of what consequence it is to explain themselves with frankness and sincerity upon their respective interests.

"The King is happy in having an opportunity to express to her Imperial Majesty his sentiments upon a point so interesting to Russia, and all the commercial powers of Europe.—And he applauds the more sincerely the principles and views which direct the Empress of Russia, as his Majesty takes part in the sentiments and motives which have engaged that Prin-

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1780 cess to adopt measures, from which solid advantages will undoubtedly result, not only to her subjects, but also to all nations.

Versailles, April 25, 1780.

Answer from the King of Spain to the Declaration of the Empress of Russia.

“ The King being informed of the Empress’s sentiments with respect to the belligerent and neutral powers, by a memorial remitted to the Comte de Florida Blanca, on the 15th instant, by Mr. Etienne de Zinowief, Minister to her Imperial Majesty : the King considers this as the effect of a just confidence which his Majesty has on his part merited ; and it is yet more agreeable that the principles adopted by this sovereign should be the same as have always guided the King, and which his Majesty has for a long time, but without success, endeavoured to cause England to observe, while Spain remained neuter. These principles are founded in justice, equity and moderation ; and these same principles Russia and all the other powers have experienced in the resolutions formed by his Majesty ; and it has been entirely owing to the conduct of the English navy, both in the last and the present war, (a conduct wholly subversive of the received rules among neutral powers) that his Majesty has been obliged to follow their example ; since the English paying no respect to a neutral flag, if the same be laden with effects belonging to the enemy, even if the articles should not be contraband, and that flag not using any means of defending itself, there could not be any just cause why Spain should not make reprisals, to indemnify herself for the great disadvantages she must otherwise labour under. The neutral powers have also laid themselves open to the inconveniencies they have suffered, by furnishing themselves with double papers, and other artifices to prevent the capture of their vessels ; from which have followed captures and detentions innumerable, and other disagreeable consequences, though in reality not so prejudicial as pretended ; on the contrary, some of these detentions have turned to the advantage of the proprietors, as the goods, being sold in the port where they were condemned, have frequently gone off at a higher price than they would have done at the place of their destination.

“ The King, nevertheless, not contented with these proofs of his justification, which have been manifest to all Europe, will this day have the glory of being the first to give the example of respecting the neutral flag of all the courts that have consented, or shall consent, to defend it, till his Majesty finds what part the English navy takes, and whether they will, together with their privateers, keep within proper bounds. And to shew to all the neutral powers how much Spain is desirous of observing the same rules in time of war as she was directed by whilst neuter, his Majesty conforms to the other points contained in the declaration of Russia. To be understood, nevertheless, that, with regard to the blockade of Gibraltar, the danger of entering subsists, as determined by the fourth article of the said declaration. These dangers may, however, be avoided by the neutral powers, if they conform to those rules of precaution established by his Majesty’s declaration of the 13th of last March, which has been communicated to the court of Petersburg by his minister.

“ *At Aranjuez, April 18, 1780.*

FLORIDA BLANCA.”

Empress of Russia’s memorial to the States General.

“ *High and Mighty Lords,*

“ The under-written envoy extraordinary from her Majesty the Empress of all the Russias, has the honour to communicate hereby a copy of a declaration, which the Empress, his sovereign, has made to the different powers actually at war. Your High Mightinesses will undoubtedly look upon this communication as a particular mark of her Imperial Majesty’s attention

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1780 tion for this republic, equally interested in the reasons which have given rise to this declaration. He has moreover orders to declare, in the name of her Imperial Majesty, that, as much as she desires to maintain, during the present war, the most perfect neutrality, as much will she be jealous to maintain, by the most efficacious means, the honour of the Russian flag, and the security of commerce, and navigation of her subjects, and will not suffer the least infringement or molestation from any of the belligerent powers: that, in order to avoid, on this occasion, all misunderstandings, or false interpretations, her Imperial Majesty has thought proper to specify, in her declaration, the limits of a free commerce, and what is to be understood by contraband; that if the definition of the first is founded on the most simple and clear notions, and fully and most explicitly determined by the law of nature, that of the last is taken literally by her Imperial Majesty, from the treaty of commerce between Russia and Great Britain: that by these means her Imperial Majesty proves incontestably her good faith and impartiality towards all parties, and consequently may expect that all the other commercial powers will be the more expeditious to accede to her way of thinking concerning the neutrality.

“ With these views her Imperial Majesty has ordered the under-written envoy extraordinary to invite your High Mightinesses to make a common cause with her, in so far as this union may serve to protect commerce and navigation, in observing at the same time the most exact neutrality, and to signify unto them the measures her Imperial Majesty has taken in consequence thereof.

“ The like invitation has already been given to the courts of Copenhagen, of Stockholm, and of Lisbon, in order that, by the united care of all the neutral maritime powers, the navigation of all the neutral trading nations may be established and legalized, and a system adopted, founded upon justice, and which by its real advantage may serve for rules for future ages.

“ The under-written envoy extraordinary makes not the least doubt that your High Mightinesses will take her Imperial Majesty’s invitation into immediate consideration, and that they will concur with her in making without delay a declaration to the belligerent powers, founded upon the same principles as those of her Imperial Majesty, and that they will explain themselves at the same time concerning the protection of their commerce and navigation, and of the nature of contraband, conformably to the express terms of their particular treaties with the other nations.

“ The under-written envoy extraordinary has moreover the honour to assure your High Mightinesses, that if, in order to establish upon a solid foundation a system as glorious as it is advantageous to the welfare of the navigation in general, they should be inclined to begin a negotiation with the above-mentioned neutral powers, so as to establish a particular convention on this subject, her Imperial Majesty will be ready to take a part in it.

“ Your High Mightinesses will easily perceive the necessity of accelerating their resolutions upon objects as important as they are advantageous to humanity in general: the under-written envoy extraordinary begs the favour of a speedy answer.

“ (Signed,)

“ *At the Hague, April 3, 1780.*

DIMITRI PRINCE DE GALLITZIN.”

The naval treaty, or convention, for an armed neutrality, concluded at Copenhagen, June 28, 1780, O. S. between her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, for the preservation of the liberty of the commerce and navigation of neuter nations; to which his Majesty the King of Sweden, and their High Mightinesses the States

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1780 States General of the United Provinces acceded, and respectively signed the same at Peterf-
burg, on the 21st of July, 1780, and the 5th of January, 1781; which was as follows:

“Whereas the commerce and navigation of neuter powers is greatly injured by the present war at sea, which has broken out between Great Britain, on the one part, and France and Spain, on the other part, her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, in consequence of their assiduous attention to support their own dignity, and to unite their constant care for the safety and welfare of their respective subjects; as well as from the respect which they have at all times manifested for the rights of nations in general, -have found it necessary, in the present circumstances, to determine their conduct according to these sentiments.

“Her Majesty the Empress of Russia, in her declaration to the belligerent powers, dated February 28, 1780, has plainly stated, in the face of all Europe, the fundamental principles which derive from the primitive rights of mankind, and which her said Majesty claims and adopts as a rule of her conduct in the present war. As this attention of her Imperial Majesty, in watching over the reciprocal rights of nations, has been honoured with the approbation of all neutral powers, her said Majesty has engaged in this affair, which materially concerns her most essential interests, and has proceeded therein so far, that it may be seriously considered as a subject worthy of the attention of both the present and future time, as it tends to the establishment of a permanent and invariable system of the rights, prerogatives, and engagements of neutrality.

“His Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, convinced of the justice of these principles, has likewise established and claimed them in his declaration of the 8th of July, 1780, which declaration (as well as that of the Empress of Russia) his said Majesty has caused to be communicated to the belligerent powers; and in order to support these principles efficaciously, his Majesty has ordered part of his fleet to be fitted out. From these proceedings have arisen that harmony and unanimity with which her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, have thought necessary, in mutual friendship and reciprocal confidence, and in conformity to the interest of their respective subjects, to confirm their common engagements by the conclusion of a formal convention.

“To this end their Imperial and Royal Majesties have chosen plenipotentiaries, who have concluded and agreed to the following articles:

“I. That their aforesaid Majesties are sincerely determined to maintain, constantly, the most perfect friendship and harmony with the different powers at present engaged in war, and to observe the most scrupulous neutrality; and in consequence thereof they declare, that adhering to this determination, the prohibition of all contraband trade with the powers at present at war, or with those who may hereafter be engaged therein, shall be strictly observed by their respective subjects.

“II. To avoid all errors and misunderstandings with regard to commodities which shall be deemed contraband, her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, do hereby declare, that they shall only acknowledge such articles to be contraband commodities as are included and mentioned in the treaties now subsisting between their respective courts, and the one or the other of the belligerent powers.

“Her Majesty the Empress of Russia conforms herself entirely, in this respect, to the articles X. and XII. of her treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and extends likewise the engagements of this treaty, which are founded upon the natural rights of nations, to

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1780 the courts of France and Spain; which said courts, until the date of this present convention, have no treaty of commerce with her empire.

“ His Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway, on his part, conforms himself chiefly to the second article of this treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and to the articles XXVI. and XXVII. of his treaty of commerce with France, and extends also the engagements of this last-mentioned treaty to the court of Spain, as his said Majesty has no treaty with the last-mentioned power, which determines any conditions relative to this subject.

“ III. As by these means all contraband goods and commodities are determined and ascertained conformable to the treaties and special convention subsisting between the high contracting parties and the belligerent powers, and chiefly in the treaty between Russia and Great Britain of the 20th of June, 1766, as well as in that between Denmark and Great Britain, dated July 11, 1670, and by that concluded between Denmark and France, on the 23d of August, 1742; the will and intention of her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and of his Majesty the King of Denmark and Norway are, that all other commerce shall be and remain free.

“ Their said Majesties having already set forth in their declaration to the belligerent powers, that they have laid down, as the basis of their conduct, the general principles of the natural rights of mankind, from whence the liberty of commerce and navigation, and the rights of neuter nations derive, are resolved not to depend any longer upon the arbitrary explication of these rights, which is generally dictated by partial advantages and momentary interests; with this view, their said Majesties have agreed upon the following articles:

“ 1. That all neutral vessels shall be permitted to navigate from port to port, and on the coasts of the belligerent powers.

“ 2. That the effects belonging to subjects of the belligerent powers shall be free on board neuter ships and vessels, excepting only such articles as are stipulated to be deemed contraband.

“ 3. In order to determine what is to be considered as a port blocked up, it is hereby declared, that that port shall only be deemed as such into which no ships can enter without being exposed to an evident peril from the forces that attack the said port, and the ships that shall have taken a station near enough for that purpose.

“ 4. That neuter vessels shall only be liable to be stopped and seized for just and cogent reasons, and upon the most convincing proofs, that justice shall be done unto them without loss of time, and that the proceedings shall always be uniform, speedy, and according to the laws; and that whenever any shall be found to have been stopped, or suffered any damage without any sufficient cause, they shall not only be entitled to a sufficient compensation, but also to a complete satisfaction for the insult offered to the flag of their Majesties.

“ IV. In order to obtain this end, and to protect the general commerce of their subjects, founded upon these invariable principles, her Majesty, the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty, the King of Denmark and Norway, have resolved to fit out, separately, a proportionate number of ships of the line and frigates; and the squadrons of these respective powers shall repair to such latitudes, and shall serve as convoys to the trading ships of their respective subjects, wherever the commerce and navigation of each nation shall require it.

“ V. In case that any merchant ships belonging to subjects of one of the high contracting parties should happen to be in a sea or latitude where no ships of war of their sovereign are stationed, and that they consequently could not obtain any protection from the forces of their own nation, the commander of the ships of war of the other power, upon being duly requested, shall immediately

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1780 immediately afford them all necessary assistance; and in this case, it is hereby stipulated, that the ships and frigates of the one power shall always grant the necessary protection and assistance to the trading ships of the other power; provided always, that those who shall claim such assistance or protection, shall not carry on any illicit trade which may be contrary to the laws of neutrality, as received and mentioned here above.

“ VI. The present convention shall not be retro-active, and consequently neither of the high contracting parties can take recognizance of any differences that may have arisen between them and other powers before its conclusion, unless the matter in litigation shall be relative to violences which are still existing, and which may tend to oppress all neuter nations in Europe.

“ VII. If, notwithstanding the vigilant and amicable care of the two high contracting parties, and the most exact observations of neutrality on their part, any Russian or Danish merchant ships should happen to be insulted or taken by the ships of war or privateers of one or the other of the belligerent powers, the minister of the offended party shall make proper representations to that court whose ships of war or privateers have been guilty of the said act; he shall insist upon a reasonable compensation for the damages or loss of time, as well as upon a complete satisfaction for the insult offered to the flag of his sovereign. The minister of the other high contracting party shall second and support these representations in the most serious and efficacious manner, and thus they shall continue jointly and unanimously until their request is granted. But in case of a refusal, or any unreasonable delay from time to time to redress these grievances, their aforesaid Majesties do hereby declare, that they will make use of reprisals towards that power that refuses to do them justice, and will immediately unite, in the most efficacious means, to execute these just reprisals.

“ VIII. In case that one of the high contracting parties, or both together, should be disturbed, molested, or attacked, in consequence of this convention, or any subject whatever relative thereto, it is hereby stipulated and agreed, that the two powers shall immediately act in concert for their mutual and reciprocal defence, and shall employ and unite all their forces to obtain a proper satisfaction, as well for the insult offered to their flag, as for the losses sustained by their respective subjects.

“ IX. This convention shall be in full force as long as this present war shall last; and the engagements contained therein shall serve as the basis for all future engagements and treaties that may be concluded hereafter, according to circumstances, and in case any other maritime war should hereafter unfortunately disturb the tranquillity of Europe. As to the rest, all what has been stipulated and agreed upon, shall be considered as permanent and invariable, as well with regard to mercantile affairs as for what concerns the navy, and shall have force of law in all decisions upon the rights of neuter nations.

“ X. As the end and chief object of this convention is to secure the general liberty of the commerce and navigation, their Majesties, the Empress of Russia, and the King of Denmark and Norway, do hereby consent, and engage themselves reciprocally, to permit that other neuter powers may accede thereto; and that these powers so acceding, being fully acquainted with the fundamental principles and engagements concerned in the obligations and advantages of the said convention.

“ XI. And in order that the belligerent powers may have no pretext for their proceedings, or pretend to be unacquainted with these engagements between their aforesaid Majesties, the high contracting powers do hereby promise, that they will separately acquaint the belligerent powers with the measures they have taken, and the motives which have engaged them to unite

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1780 in this affair; which measures are the less hostile as they are no ways detrimental to any other power, but have only for object the security of the commerce and navigation of their respective subjects.

“ Done at Copenhagen, the 9th of July, 1780.

“ CHARLES VAN OSTENSAKEN, (L. S.)

“ J. SCHACK RATHLAU, (L. S.)

“ A. P. COUNT OF BERNSTORFF, (L. S.)

“ O. THOTT, (L. S.)

“ H. EICHSTEDT, (L. S.)”

The ratifications of this convention were exchanged at Copenhagen, on the 16th of September, 1780, by the same ministers plenipotentiaries.

And as a like convention was concluded at Petersburg, between the ministers appointed by that court, and those on the part of his Majesty the King of Sweden, on the 21st of July, 1780; and the said convention being word for word of the same tenor and form as that concluded and signed at Copenhagen, excepting only the second article, in which the stipulations concerning the articles that are to be deemed contraband, are determined according to the treaties subsisting between the court of Sweden and other powers, it has been thought proper, to avoid a repetition of what has already been mentioned, to insert here the said second article only.

“ Art. II. To avoid all errors and misunderstandings with regard to commodities which shall be deemed contraband, her Majesty the Empress of Russia, and his Majesty the King of Sweden, do hereby declare, that they shall only acknowledge such articles to be contraband commodities as are included and mentioned in the treaties now subsisting between their respective courts, and the one or the other of the belligerent powers.

“ Her Majesty the Empress of Russia conforms herself entirely in this respect to the articles X. and XI. of her treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and extends likewise the engagements of this treaty, which are founded upon the natural rights of nations, to the courts of France and Spain; which said courts, until the date of the present convention, have no treaty of commerce with her empire.

“ His Majesty the King of Sweden, for his part, refers chiefly to the eleventh article of this treaty of commerce with the court of Great Britain, and to the tenor of the preliminary treaty of commerce concluded between Sweden and France in the year 1741; and although the articles that are to be deemed contraband are not expressly ascertained and determined in the last-mentioned treaty, the two powers having been understood to consider each other as *gens amicitissima*, the court of Sweden has, however, reserved to itself the same advantages which the Hans-towns enjoy in France since times immemorial until the present period. The advantages which are included in the treaty of Utrecht being fully confirmed, the King has nothing to add thereto. With regard to the court of Spain, his Swedish Majesty finds himself in the same situation as the Empress of Russia, and following her Majesty's example, the King likewise extends to the court of Spain all the engagements of the above-mentioned treaties, as being founded upon the natural rights of nations.

“ In consequence of this difference in the above article, the two Kings who have joined her Majesty the Empress of Russia, in this affair, have acceded, as principal contracting parties, to the treaties and conventions concluded between them and her said Imperial Majesty, and to this

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1780 this effect they have signed with their own hand a separate act, which said acts have been exchanged in due form at Petersburg by the ministers of her Imperial Majesty.

“ Their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces, also acceded to the said convention on the 20th of November, 1780, and under the same conditions, for what concerns the articles of contraband, according to the treaties subsisting between their High Mightinesses and other powers, which said convention has been signed at Petersburg by their plenipotentiaries on the 5th of January, 1781, with the addition of the following article :

“ XIII. For what concerns the command in chief of the naval forces, in case the squadrons or ships of war of the two high contracting parties should happen to meet, or find it expedient to form a junction, it is hereby stipulated and agreed, that the same shall be obeyed as is customary between crowned sovereigns and the republic of Holland.”

Though the relation of every loss we sustained, or every advantage we acquired during the course of this war, is not a part of, as it could not be comprehended in, our plan, we cannot omit mentioning, that the successes of Sir George Brydges Rodney, at the commencement of this year, seemed to indicate a return of that naval glory, which had so long been the boast of the English name, but from a variety of untoward circumstances, had, for some time, been unhappily obscured.

On the 8th of January, 1780, Sir George Brydges Rodney, with the fleet under his command, destined for the relief of Gibraltar, fell in with and took 22 sail of Spanish ships. They proved to be a convoy which had sailed from St. Sebastians on the first of the same month, and were under the protection of seven ships and vessels of war belonging to the Royal Company of the Caraccas. On the 16th, the same fortunate and brave admiral met with still more signal success, when he engaged, near Cape St. Vincent, a Spanish fleet of eleven ships of the line and two frigates, under the command of Don Juan de Langara; of this fleet he took four of the largest ships, with the Spanish admiral, and drove two on shore, one of which was recovered; and, in the engagement, the San Domingo, of 70 guns and 600 men, blew up; the rest, with the frigates, after being much damaged in the action, made their escape. The five men of war which were taken, were very fine ships, and being completely refitted and manned, became a very glorious addition to the British navy. The more immediate consequences of this important victory, were the complete relief of Gibraltar and of Minorca, both of which, till this event, had been considered with no common apprehension.

The first business of importance in which the House of Commons engaged after the Christmas recess, was the deliberating on a bill brought in by Lord North, in conformity to the propositions which he had before stated to the House, for allowing “ the trade between Ireland and the British colonies and plantations in America and the West Indies, and the British settlements on the coast of Africa, to be carried on, in like manner, as it is now carried on between Great Britain and the said colonies and settlements.” On former occasions, when questions of commerce respecting Ireland had been in agitation, the several manufacturing towns of the kingdom had applied to Parliament and urged their situation, as an objection to the matters then under discussion; pleading, that in reliance on the good faith of Parliament they had put themselves into that situation, and that, therefore, it would be unjust to grant to Ireland what must materially affect their interest. But the case was now altered; it was no longer a question of commerce, but a question of great national importance: for which reason, the several places in the kingdom, likely to be affected by what had already been done, and what more remained to be done for Ireland, seemed to have thought it decent and dutiful to remain

silent,

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1780 silent, to with-hold all opposition, and to trust altogether to the wisdom and justice of Parliament. This bill, therefore, passed with very little opposing animadversion.

It may not be improper to mention here, that the resolutions, &c. of the English Parliament, previous to the Christmas recess, were received with the utmost gratitude and applause in Ireland. On the 20th of December, 1779, the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to in the House of Commons of that kingdom. "Resolved, That the exportation from this kingdom of its woollen and other manufactures, to all foreign places, will materially tend to relieve its distresses, increase its wealth, promote its prosperity, and thereby advance the welfare of Great Britain, and the common strength, wealth and commerce of the British empire." "Resolved, That a liberty for this kingdom to trade with the British colonies in America and the West Indies, and the British settlements on the coast of Africa, in like manner as trade is carried on between Great Britain and the said colonies and settlements, will be productive of very great commercial benefits, will be a most affectionate mark of the regard and attention of Great Britain to our distresses, and will give new vigour to the zeal of his Majesty's brave and loyal people of Ireland, to stand forth in support of his Majesty's person and government, and the interest, the honour and the dignity of the British empire." The same resolutions were agreed to on the following day, in the House of Peers.

The three propositions to allow Ireland a free export of her wool, woollens and wool flocks; a free exportation of glass, &c. and a freedom of trade with the British plantations on certain conditions, were founded on the basis of an equality of customs and taxes upon an equal and unrestrained trade.

Though a free and unlimited right to trade with the whole world, might be claimed on the part of Ireland; yet the Irish did not, nor could they pretend to, claim any right, directly or indirectly with respect to any part of the British colonies or plantations. But even admitting the claim of a free and unrestrained trade, it could not but be beneficial to Ireland to preserve its connections with Great Britain, and to possess a participation of its commercial interests. On the idea, indeed, of a natural and political connection, the Irish had been rather harshly and impolitically treated, since the restoration: before that event, they enjoyed every commercial benefit and advantage in common with England. The commerce, import and export, was held equally by both kingdoms till the reign of Charles II. Even the act of navigation, the great foundation of our plantation laws, placed England and Ireland upon exact terms of equality; nor was it till two years after, that the first commercial restriction was laid upon Ireland; and that not directly, but by deductive interpretation. When the act first passed, there was a general governing clause, for giving bonds to perform the conditions of the act; but when the act was amended, in the fifteenth of Charles II. the word Ireland was omitted; from whence a conclusion was drawn, that the acts of the two preceding Parliaments (viz. the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth of Charles II.) were thereby repealed; though it was as clearly expressed in those acts, as it was possible for words to convey, that ships built in Ireland, navigated by the people thereof, were deemed British, and qualified to trade to and from the British plantations; and that ships built in Ireland and navigated by his Majesty's subjects of Ireland, were entitled to the same abatements and privileges to which importers and exporters of goods in British built ships were entitled. However, Ireland had been as much excluded from trading with the British colonies as France and Spain, or any other foreign nation, in the way of a direct export or import trade, excepting in a few trifling instances.

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1780 Some of the restraints respecting Ireland, in the reign of Charles II. were supposed to have originated in a dislike or jealousy of the growing power of the then Duke of Ormond, who, from his great estate and possessions in Ireland, was very naturally supposed to have a personal interest in the prosperity of that kingdom. So far, indeed, was this spirit carried, whether from personal enmity to the Duke of Ormond, from narrow prejudices, or blind policy, that the Parliament of England passed a law to prohibit the importation of Irish lean cattle.

One object of the propositions evidently was to restore to Ireland the wool export and woollen manufacture. In 1692, both Houses of the English Parliament addressed the crown, recommending a kind of compact between both kingdoms; the terms of which were, that England should enjoy the woollen manufacture exclusively, and Ireland the linen. But, however solemnly this compact might be observed by the latter kingdom, the truth was, that England carried on the linen manufacture to full as great an extent as Ireland, while the monopoly of the woollens remained totally with England. The first step Ireland took in consequence of this compact was, to lay an export duty upon wool and woollens of all kinds, equal to a prohibition; and when that act expired, for it was but a temporary one by way of experiment, the British Parliament, without consulting that of Ireland, by the tenth and eleventh of William III. passed a similar act, and made it perpetual. By that act, and one or two that followed, a total end was put to the woollen trade of Ireland.

Upon an average of six years, from 1766 to 1772, the export to Ireland was somewhat more than two millions; and, in the succeeding six years, ending in 1778, about as much more; one half nearly British manufacture or produce; the other half, certificated articles, of which this country was the medium of conveyance. Out of the native produce, which was something more than 900,000*l.* per annum, on the average, only 200,000*l.* were woollens; so that in this light, supposing every thing that any man could wish to conclude from the fact, it would be very far from sound policy, to risk a million export of native produce for a woollen export of 200,000*l.* Besides, the woollen manufacture of Ireland must, for a long time, continue in a state of infancy; and though cloths were manufactured there in a sufficient quantity to answer a considerable part of the home consumption, yet it could be hardly expected, that Ireland would be able to rival Great Britain at the foreign markets, when, after the expence of land carriage, freight, insurance and factorage, she is able to undersell Ireland in her own markets, on the very spot, though aided by the advantage of low wages and taxes.

As to the linen trade, however prosperous it may appear, it was still capable of great improvement. In a pamphlet written by that excellent politician Sir William Temple, the idea was first suggested of extending and improving the linen manufacture of Ireland, and gave rise to the compact which has just been mentioned. It was, indeed, an opinion which appeared to be entertained by many, that as this compact was now to be dissolved, and the Irish were to be permitted to enjoy a free export of woollens, the bounties paid on the importation into England, of certain species of fabrics of Irish linens ought to be discontinued. This, however, would have been a very impolitic measure, because it appears, from the most accurate enquiries, that the British bounties had operated as a great encouragement to the Irish linen manufacture, and as the sum appropriated annually to that purpose, had never, in the highest year, amounted to much above 13,000*l.*

This law, of course, put an end to the compact between England and Ireland, respecting the woollen and linen manufactures: but, as a more liberal spirit had manifested itself on both sides of the water, it was natural to expect that both kingdoms would be contented. Ireland would

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1780 would never be able to rival England in the fine woollen fabrics; while the Irish, manufacturing their own wool, would prevent the contraband export of the raw material to France. Besides, whatever proves a benefit to Ireland, must, sooner or later, be of very great advantage to Great Britain; and, by the regulations proposed under these new laws, the commercial connection between the two kingdoms, would be put upon a more equitable and solid footing.

Ireland had, also, been very injuriously treated respecting the glass manufacture. Previous to an act of the nineteenth of George II. Ireland imported glass from other countries, and, at length, began to make some progress in the lower branches of the manufacture herself: but, by that act, the Irish were prohibited from importing any kind of glass, other than the manufacture of Great Britain; and it was also enacted, that no glass of the manufacture of Ireland should be exported, or so much as laden on any horse or carriage, with intent to be so exported. This act, indeed, was much complained of in Ireland, and with great reason. It was, therefore, designed by another of the propositions, to take away the ground of this complaint; and, thereby, indicate a ready wish to remove the most distant appearance of oppression, prejudice, or self interest, arising from a spirit of monopoly and commercial exclusion.

The third proposition, and which was now carried into a law, of allowing Ireland a free trade to the British colonies and plantations in America and the West Indies, was, certainly, of a very different nature from the two former. A trade with our colonies, of any kind, or of any extent from Ireland, must certainly be considered as a matter of favour to that kingdom. In no situation whatever, could she set up a claim to a commercial intercourse with the British colonies, which had been settled, established and raised to their present strength and opulence by the blood, treasure and industry of Great Britain. By every principal of justice, of the law of nations, and the customs of the other powers of Europe who had settlements and distant dependencies, the mother country had an exclusive right to trade with, and to forbid all others from having any intercourse with them. Such an exclusive right cannot be denied to be the very essence of colonization: for what nation would spend their blood and treasure in establishing a colony and protecting it in its infant state, if other nations were afterwards to reap the advantages which were derived from their labour, hazard and expence? But though Great Britain had an undoubted right to restrain Ireland from trading with her colonies, it certainly would be the interest of the former to admit her sister kingdom to a participation of her colony commerce. It is, surely, the interest and the duty of Great Britain to do every thing in her power which might tend to promote and enlarge the interests and commerce of Ireland, upon the broadest and most extensive ground: and one of the most certain means of rendering that country useful to herself and truly valuable to this, was to open new sources of commerce to her. The admitting Ireland to a participation of our trade with the colonies, was the most wise and prudent means of affording her relief; and it was that species of relief, which would more particularly convince her of the sincere and affectionate desire of Great Britain to render her rich, prosperous and happy. But as Ireland had now received an equal share in the colony trade, an equality of taxes and duties upon the export and import was naturally included.— This was the most equitable ground on which the benefits and advantages now proposed to be given to the Irish nation, could be either granted or expected; and to the Irish Parliament it was left to lay on those taxes and duties, which would bring the English and Irish commodities to market upon equal terms.

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1780 For some years past there had been a very spirited opposition to the measures of government in Parliament; but it had not hitherto been much supported by the people without doors. Great discontents, however, appeared at present throughout the nation; the enormous expences of the American war, and the burthens it occasioned, seemed to have awakened the people from their accustomed confidence in government. The most impartial men, and such as had not the least prejudice against the ministers, could not but perceive, that there had been a very great and indefensible profusion of the public money; and, at a time, when the people were loaded with taxes, and when the commerce of the nation was considerably diminished. This subject, therefore, began now to awaken the attention both of the inhabitants of the metropolis and of different counties in the kingdom. In a meeting of the common council of London, held at Guildhall, on the 16th of December in the last year, the thanks of the corporation were voted to those Peers, who supported a motion in the House of Lords for promoting national œconomy, and a reduction of the civil list.

On the 30th of December following, there was a very numerous and respectable meeting of the freeholders of the county of York, who were called together for the purpose of preparing a petition to the House of Commons, for some reformation in the public expenditure. The freeholders, who were assembled on the occasion, consisted of gentlemen of the largest property in that opulent county, and several of the nobility, and many members of Parliament were present. They appeared to be almost unanimously of opinion, that it was indispensably necessary the people should exert themselves, in order to promote a plan of national œconomy, and to procure some alleviation of the public burthens. They, therefore, agreed to a petition to the House of Commons on that subject, in which they declared, that, being alarmed at the diminished resources and growing burthens of this country, and convinced that rigid frugality was indispensably necessary in every department of the state, they observed, with grief, that notwithstanding the impoverished condition of the nation, much public money had been improvidently squandered, and that many individuals enjoyed sinecure places, efficient places with exorbitant emoluments and pensions, unmerited by public services, &c. from whence the crown had acquired a great and unconstitutional influence, which, if not checked, might prove very injurious to the liberties of this country: they further represented, that, until effectual measures were taken to redress these oppressive grievances, the grant of any additional sum of public money, beyond the produce of the present taxes, would be injurious to the rights and property of the people, and derogatory from the honour of Parliament; and they earnestly requested the House, that, before any new burthens were laid upon this country, effectual measures might be taken by that House to inquire into and correct the gross abuses in the expenditure of the public money; to reduce all exorbitant emoluments; to rescind and abolish all sinecure places and unmerited pensions; and to appropriate the produce to the necessities of the state in such manner, as to the wisdom of Parliament should seem meet. Besides the petition to the House of Commons, it was also resolved at this meeting of the Yorkshire freeholders, that a committee of sixty-one gentlemen should be appointed, to carry on the necessary correspondence for effectually promoting the object of the petition, and to prepare a plan of an association, on legal and constitutional grounds, to support that laudable reform, which was so essentially necessary to the welfare of the kingdom.

The example of the county of York was followed by other counties and corporations. On the 7th of January, the county of Middlesex met, and framed a petition of a similar nature to that of which we have already given the purport. These counties were quickly followed by

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1780 those of Hertford, Suffex, Huntingdon, Surry, Cumberland, Bedford, Essex, Somerset, Gloucester, Wilts, Dorset, Devon, Norfolk, Berks, Bucks, Nottingham, Kent, Northumberland, Suffolk, Hereford, Cambridge and Derby: the Welsh counties of Denbigh, Flint and Brecknock, likewise petitioned, as did the cities of London, Westminster, York, Bristol, Gloucester and Hereford, with the towns of Nottingham, Reading, Cambridge, Bridgewater and Newcastle upon Tyne. The county of Northampton declined petitioning, but voted resolutions and instructions to their representatives, upon the same ground, and including the purport of the petitions as a previous measure.

It must not, indeed, be supposed, that in all these counties and towns, the spirit was alike, or that the same unanimity prevailed. But there were few, in which any direct or successful opposition was made to the measure; so that it might be considered as agreeing, in general, with the sense of those places.

In the month of March there were several meetings in London of deputies from the committees of most of the petitioning counties, as some of them petitioned without appointing committees, when a memorial was prepared and published containing reasons for a plan of national association, to recommend which circular letters were dispersed throughout the kingdom. These deputies also came to several resolutions, relative to the steps which should be taken by the people in order to free the Parliament from corruption, and to procure a redress of the national grievances. One of these was, that there should be sent to the House of Commons, in addition to the present representatives of counties, a number of members, not less than one hundred, to be chosen, in due proportion, by the several counties of the kingdom of Great Britain; and that the people should support those candidates only, at the ensuing general election, who should engage to vote for this and other reforming regulations. These exertions of the people seemed, at first, to promise some important effects; but they were, in a great degree, prevented, and the attempts of these popular meetings and associations very much obstructed, by the several important events which followed.

It is undoubtedly the inherent privilege of the people of England, to petition either House of Parliament, or any branch of the legislature. The petitions which we have just mentioned, (and which being a prominent feature of the year which is now under our consideration, we could not but mention) proceeded from a most respectable body of the people, from upwards of an hundred thousand electors of this kingdom; and so far as they were confined to the real objects of redress, not only deserved alleviation, but every possible attention in the mode of administering it. At the same time, the committees and associations which sprung from, and indeed accompanied many of them, will not, by any means, meet with our approbation. If they were not illegal, they were extremely improper, and might have terminated in consequences which every good man, upon cool reflection, would wish to avoid. They appear to have had also this evil tendency, that they took off from the weight of the petitions in that House; because they pointed to other measures of redress, while they were seeking it at the hands of their representatives assembled in Parliament; thereby holding out motives of compulsion, and rendering that an act of necessity, which ought to be the effect of consideration and conviction.

As the French, in the course of the preceding year, had made themselves masters of the islands of St. Vincents and Grenada, and had, at this time, a very powerful fleet in the West Indies, the merchants, planters, and other persons possessed of property in the West India Islands, were naturally alarmed, more particularly, as the important island of Jamaica was apprehended

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1780 apprehended to be in the greatest danger. Accordingly a petition was presented on the 10th of February, to the House of Commons from the planters, merchants, and other persons interested in that island; and, on the 21st of the same month, a similar petition was presented to the House of Lords.

In considering these petitions, &c. it was asserted, after an animated representation of the commercial importance of that island to Great Britain, and the patriotic attachment of its inhabitants to the mother country, that Jamaica had been neglected for several years, both in respect of its internal safety and external protection and defence; that in the year 1773, which was previous to the breaking out of the American troubles, a petition had been presented to government, stating, that the cultivation and commerce of that island had been greatly improved and increased within the preceding thirty or thirty-five years; that the number of blacks had been proportionably increased, and that the white inhabitants had been greatly on the decrease; that in consequence of such a decrease of the white inhabitants, and an increase of slaves, the internal safety of the island required a larger military force than they then had: and that they were well founded in this opinion, appeared from an insurrection among the blacks, which had been lately quelled, but which they had reason to fear might break out afresh: that the whole military force on the island, consisted of but two battalions of 300 men each; whilst the French and Spaniards had 10,000 regular troops at St. Domingo and Hispaniola; and that it was the opinion of the inhabitants of Jamaica, that two battalions or regiments of 1,000 men each, at least, was the smallest force that would be sufficient to protect the island from insurrections within, or attacks from without. Of this application, however, so strongly supported by the real state of the island, no notice appeared to have been taken by government: on the contrary, two years after, instead of augmenting the defence of the island, the governor received an order to send one of the two battalions which were in Jamaica, to assist in carrying on the American war. The few troops which had been afterwards sent, were certainly very insufficient for the defence of the island, while the naval force given to protect it was proportionably inadequate. A letter from General Dalling, the governor, confirmed the truth of this representation, wherein he did not hesitate to declare his dread of a visit from the Count D'Estaing, and to acknowledge, that if he was not strongly reinforced, he despaired of being able to make an effectual resistance. It was said, on the part of government, that troops, ships and military stores of all kinds had been sent, from time to time, to Jamaica; and that Lord Cornwallis, with a land force of 4,000 men, had been embarked at New York for that island, accompanied by four men of war of the line, but that he received counter-orders, when it was known that D'Estaing was gone to attack Savannah. This was undoubtedly true; but there is too much reason to believe, that had not Count D'Estaing's troops been extremely afflicted with sickness, he would have been in possession of Jamaica before Lord Cornwallis could have arrived to defend it. In short, from the parliamentary discussion of these petitions it appeared, that the island in question had been neglected; but that, nevertheless, the ministry had paid every attention to its preservation in their power, consistent with the unfortunate, but predominant plan of prosecuting the American war. It should, indeed, be mentioned, that a protest against the Jamaica petition had been formed by several West India merchants; but they were generally considered, at the time, as persons who felt it to be their interest to forward the views of, and to stand well with government.

Though we cannot, by any means, enter at large into the subject, it would be highly improper to pass over the plan of Mr. Edmund Burke, which he, at this time, offered to Parlia-

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1780 ment, for a reform in the constitution of several parts of the public œconomy. This plan he communicated to the House in a speech of great length, replete with information, and embellished with all the beauties of eloquence. That gentleman, when he conceived the design of submitting to the House of Commons some plan of reform, found it essentially necessary to take a very comprehensive view of the state of this country, to make a survey of its jurisdictions, its estates, and its establishments, and in order to guide him in his proposed plan of reform, he laid down the seven following fundamental rules.

First, That all jurisdictions which furnish more matter of expence, more temptation to oppression, or more means and instruments of corrupt influence than advantage to justice or political administration, ought to be abolished.

Secondly, That all public estates which are more subservient to the purposes of vexing, and influencing those who hold under them, and to the expences of receipt and management, than of benefit to the revenue, ought upon every principle, both of revenue and of freedom, to be disposed of.

Thirdly, That all offices which bring more charge than proportional advantage to the state, and all offices which may be engrafted on others, uniting and simplifying their duties, ought, in the first case, to be taken away, and in the second, to be consolidated.

Fourthly, That all such offices ought to be abolished as obstruct the prospect of the general superintendant of finance; which destroy his superintendancy; which disable him from foreseeing and providing for charges as they may occur; from preventing expence in its origin, checking it in its progress, or securing its application to its proper purposes.

Fifthly, That it is proper to establish an invariable order in all payments, which will prevent partiality, which will give preference to their services, not according to the importunity of the demandant, but the rank and order of their utility or their justice.

Sixthly, That it is right to reduce every establishment, and every part of an establishment, as nearly as possible to certainty; the life of all order and good management.

Seventhly, That all subordinate treasuries, as the nurseries of mismanagement, and as naturally drawing to themselves as much money as they can, keeping it as long as they can, and accounting for it as late as they can, ought to be dissolved; they having a tendency to perplex and distract the public accounts, and to excite a suspicion of government, even beyond the extent of their abuse.

Such were the principles under whose guidance and authority this plan was to proceed; but so various was its objects, and so unsuccessful was it in its progress, that we shall confine ourselves to the only point of consequence obtained by it, which was the abolition of the Board of Trade and Plantations. The arguments used on the occasion were, in general, unanswerable, and proved effectual to the purpose.

It was asserted, that the Board of Trade and Plantations had not only never been of the least service to the commerce of this country, but that trade and manufactures had, at times, suffered very materially from their injudicious interference. Indeed, it does not appear that this board had been of any use to the colonies, as colonies. The flourishing settlements of New England, of Virginia and of Maryland, as well as all our wealthy colonies in the West Indies, were of a date prior to the first board of Charles the Second. Pennsylvania and Carolina were settled in the interval between the extinction of the first, and the formation of the second Board of Trade and Plantations in the reign of William the Third. Two colonies alone owed their origin to that board; Georgia and Nova Scotia. Georgia, till lately, had made a very slow progress;

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1780 progress; and never made any progress at all, till it had wholly got rid of all the regulations which the Board of Trade had moulded into its original constitution. That colony had certainly cost the nation very large sums of money; whereas, the colonies which had never been fostered by the Board of Trade, had never cost the nation a shilling: nay, the colony of Georgia, to the very last, possessed an establishment paid by England, as it never had been able to take upon itself the expence of its proper government. The province of Nova Scotia also, had stood Great Britain in no less than 700,000*l.* without being able to support those offices which constituted its civil government. Nor did the Board of Trade, &c. appear to be considered as possessing the wisdom and authority of commercial erudition: for, when points of the greatest importance to commerce were agitated in Parliament, no particular request was ever made to this board to assist the deliberations; nor did any of the regulations in matters relating to trade and commerce, which, for some years past, had been so numerous, derive their origin or their improvement from it. Of the several East India bills which had been successively produced since 1767, not one of them had originated there: when the acts were framed which were preludes to the American war, or attendant on its commencement, acts replete with commercial regulations, (*viz.* the Intercourse Bill; the Prohibitory Bill; the Fishery Bill;) in none of these was the Board of Trade consulted. Even when the acts were framed which gave a free trade to Ireland with independent nations, and an equal trade to our own colonies, we do not find that this board had any official concern whatever. Upon the strength of such arguments as these, aided by the very forcible suggestions that it was kept up for the purpose of increasing certain undue influence, the Board of Trade and Plantations was abolished on a division of the House, when the numbers were, 207 for, and 199 against, that measure.

On the 13th of March, Lord North moved for leave to bring in a bill to appoint and enable commissioners to take, state, and make up the public accounts; to ascertain what balances were in the hands of public officers; to discover what defects existed in the mode of making up the accounts at the Exchequer; and to report to the House what they should deem the best method of removing them. This bill was directed to three different objects: the first was to inform that House and the public of the real state of the accounts of the kingdom, that the nation might see in what manner the great sums which were granted by Parliament had been disposed of. The second was, by ascertaining the outstanding balances, to enable government to compel payment; and the last, by discovering the defects, to prevent such inconveniencies in time to come. The persons appointed to fill the commission were not to be members of the House of Commons, nor to enjoy any place of profit or emolument under the crown. This bill passed into a law, but not without considerable opposition, not only as to its general principle, but also to its particular arrangements. A parliamentary committee of accounts was by many thought to be much preferable to the mode proposed. That has, however, answered the expectations of those who supported it, and from the very able manner in which it has been carried into effect by the gentlemen appointed to the commission, it has afforded universal satisfaction to the nation.

A bill for excluding contractors, under certain restrictions, from sitting in the House of Commons, had met with considerable opposition, and was at length rejected, the preceding session in that House; but, in the present session it passed in the House of Commons, and was, of course, carried up to the House of Lords. There, however, it met with a very different fate. It was there contended, that the principle of the bill was erroneous, because it went

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1780 to disfranchise a most respectable body of men, and deprive them of the most valuable object of ambition, that of representing their fellow citizens in the Parliament of a free country, without any charge being produced against them of guilt or criminality. That government could not wish, according to any principle of justice, to exclude merchants of great property merely because they happened to be engaged, fairly and honestly, in contracts with government, and unless proofs were brought to the contrary, no one has a right to suppose that such contracts were otherwise than fair and beneficial; and should they be proved, at any time, to be founded in fraud and imposition, the laws had already provided proper punishment for public as well as private delinquency. That it would deter all reputable merchants, &c. from supplying our fleets and armies, upon any terms, with those necessaries, which it would frequently happen that no others could furnish; and that it would throw such an important business entirely into the hands of men, who either wanted means and ability to fulfil their contracts, or inclination and honesty to fulfil them properly. In short, that it was formed either to banish the mercantile interest from the House of Commons, or to place the existence of our fleets and armies in the hands of beggars and bankrupts. Upon these and similar arguments the bill was finally rejected.

On the 21st of March, Lord North moved, That notice be given, that the capital stock or debt of 4,200,000*l.* and all arrears of annuity due and payable in respect thereof from the public to the United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, should be paid on the fifth of April, 1783, agreeably to the power of redemption in the act. His lordship observed, that he had, for some time past, expected, that he should have received proposals from the East India Company for a renewal of their charter; but as none had come, he thought it his duty to inform the House, that in conformity to certain stipulations, in various acts of Parliament, the East India Company's charter would have three years to come, from the 25th of March ensuing; but as the stile had been altered since the bargain was originally made, the new stile changed the day, and carried it forward to the 5th of April; from which day, therefore, the company had three years right to an exclusive trade to the East Indies, but no more, provided the Parliament gave notice to pay them off the 4,200,000*l.* which was due to them from the public on or after that day. Lord North acknowledged, that he had seen certain propositions, which he had thought might have been the basis of a treaty for a new charter: but, on the directors referring them to a general court, they had been rejected by a majority of the proprietors, and other propositions had been framed and sent to him, which he thought were by no means sufficiently advantageous, nor such as, in his opinion, the public ought to accede to. He stated the right of the public either to the whole of the territorial acquisitions and revenues; or, if the company were allowed to hold the exclusive trade longer, to a participation of the profits: and remarked, that as the company had not offered him such propositions, as appeared fit for him to treat upon, it was his duty to state the matter to the House, and to make the motion that he now did; and which, after some debate, was at length carried.

This motion does not appear, as it was suggested by some who opposed it, to have been intended as a menace; but merely to put in a claim, on behalf of the public, to the reversion of a right which undoubtedly belonged to them, at the very moment when it was especially proper that it should be formally made. It should be considered, if notice had not been properly given at this time, the company would have had a right to hold in their possession that, which ought, in three years, to revert to the public, longer than they ought to hold it, and longer than it

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1780 was intended they should hold it, unless their charter were renewed. It certainly could not be the desire of government to break with the company, or to force them to the necessity of a dissolution; but, at the same time, the company could not imagine that the public lay at their mercy. The public had an undoubted right to expect great resources from the company, and from the territorial acquisitions in India: if the company, therefore, should have been so inconsiderate as not to come to a fair bargain with the public, some plan must have been adopted by government, to remedy the evil threatened to the revenue.

From the different debates which took place at the India House, respecting the propositions that had passed between the Court of Directors and the Treasury Board, relative to the renewal of the charter, the following appeared to be the situation of the company. The stock was valued at 3,200,000*l.*; bonds and other debts, 1,800,000*l.*; total, 5,000,000*l.* Their property in India was stated to exceed 13,000,000*l.*; the government debt, 4,200,000*l.* and their effects in England would, it was supposed, make up at least 20,000,000*l.* So that if the company had broke up at the approaching term of the charter, the probability of which had been hinted at by the minister himself, the proprietors would have divided 400*l.* sterling, at least, for 100*l.* stock, after paying the bond and other creditors, besides the deduction of their capital.

Among the many important matters which were proposed and agitated during the course of this busy and active session of Parliament, an attempt was made, by General Conway, to forward a reconciliation between Great Britain and America by other means than the sword. For this purpose, that gentleman, on the 5th of May, made a motion for leave to bring in a bill, for quieting the troubles then reigning in the British American colonies, and for enabling his Majesty to appoint commissioners, with full powers to treat, and conclude upon terms of conciliation with the said colonies. The purport of this bill was to hold out terms which the Americans at large, or any particular province might accept when they would, and be immediately in his Majesty's peace. But, as it was opposed by the friends of administration, as inadequate to the object, and not supported by the gentlemen on the other side with any great degree of zeal or animation, it was rejected by a considerable majority.

The first abilities and most powerful eloquence of this country had been employed in Parliament, to obtain a reformation of the public expenditure, and a diminution of the influence of the crown, and some leading points had been gained in both. These efforts in the senate had received considerable countenance and support from the county meetings and associations. But any beneficial effects which might have been expected from such exertions of some of the ablest men in the kingdom, were, in a great degree, prevented by meetings of another kind, which occasioned very unexpected events, and chiefly took their rise from some of the weakest and most unenlightened men the nation could produce. We refer to the Protestant Association, to the tumultuous meetings which originated from it, and to riots and conflagrations that took place in the metropolis, and threw a damp upon all associations, even for the most constitutional purposes; excepting those only of a military kind, which were afterwards formed for the public defence.

In 1778, an act was passed, "For relieving his Majesty's Subjects, professing the Romish Religion, from certain Penalties and Disabilities imposed upon them in the eleventh and twelfth Years of the Reign of King William III." This act passed unanimously; it being the general opinion of liberal minded men of all parties, that the laws against the Papists were abundantly too rigorous; and that in an enlightened age, in which the principles of toleration so much prevailed, they were a disgrace to our statute books. Nor did the act at first appear

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to excite any great alarm among persons of any class. But though the act was far enough from granting a legal toleration to the Papists, and only relieved them from some particular penalties, as they now thought the government inclined to be more indulgent to them than formerly, they began to take somewhat greater liberties than they had hitherto done in the public exercise of their religion. Hence it was, that, by degrees, a number of persons in London, and some other parts of the kingdom, began to express great apprehensions of Popery, and to exclaim against the late act, by which they thought it was countenanced and supported. Meetings of these zealous persons were held from time to time in London: they formed themselves into a body under the title of the Protestant Association; and Lord George Gordon, whose conduct had been, for some time, marked with a fanatic peculiarity, was elected to be their president. The object of this Association was to obtain a repeal of the late act in favour of the Papists. The members of it were, indeed, chiefly distinguished by zeal, by bigotry and by ignorance; they were, principally, Methodists and bigotted Calvinists of the lower ranks of life; and no persons of liberal sentiments, of any party, appeared to have any connection with them. They became, however, very numerous; a petition to Parliament was framed, for a repeal of the late act, the utmost pains were employed to procure subscriptions to it, and it was resolved, that it should be attended by great numbers of the petitioners in person, who were accordingly invited, by a public advertisement, signed by Lord George Gordon, to meet in St. George's Fields, on the second day of June, for that purpose. Accordingly, on that day, 50,000 persons are supposed to have assembled, from whence they proceeded, with much regularity and order, to the House of Commons, where their petition was presented by their president. But no sooner were they arrived at the place of their destination, and had filled up all the streets and avenues to both Houses of Parliament, than they began to exercise the authority derived from their numbers, by treating the members, especially of the House of Lords, with great indignity; some of them narrowly escaping with their lives. In the mean time, the author and leader of this sedition, having obtained leave, in the House of Commons, to bring up the petition, afterwards moved for its being taken into immediate consideration. This motion occasioned a debate; but, notwithstanding the dangers which menaced them, the Commons continued immovable in their determination to oppose the petition. Of 200 members, then present in the House, six only voted for it; the rest, with a spirit that reflected the highest honour both on their individual and public character, resisted it with the disdain it so highly merited.

In the mean time the mob, on the arrival of the guards, who had been sent for on the occasion, had dispersed itself into various parts of the town. Among other outrages, they demolished two Romish chapels belonging to foreign ministers, and openly vented the most terrible menaces against all people of that persuasion.

For several succeeding days the metropolis seemed to be at the mercy of lawless bands of rioters, and exhibited a spectacle of calamity and horror, that has no parallel among the modern effects of civil commotion. It is said, that fires were seen blazing in thirty-six different parts from one spot. The great gaol of Newgate, the prisons of the King's Bench and the Fleet, the New Bridewell in St. George's Fields, a very large distillery in Holborn, with many private houses, all being in a state of conflagration, presented spectacles of the most shocking nature. The Bank itself, that grand support of public credit and national commerce, was also attacked at two different periods, and fortunately for this country, was so well guarded as to be attacked in vain. An universal panic seemed to have seized the inhabitants, all business

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1780 was suspended, and they submitted to the outrages committed on their property and themselves, as to a victorious army. At length, large bodies of troops arrived from different parts of the country, and, by applying the necessary vigour of the military arm, a stop was put to the progress of the rioters; and, on the afternoon of the eighth of June, people began to recover a little from their consternation. On this day the House of Commons met; but although the rioters were quelled, it was immediately noticed that the city of Westminster was under martial law, and they accordingly adjourned to the nineteenth.

It would certainly be very unjust to impute to the Protestant Association the whole of the mischief that ensued, or to suppose that they foresaw the calamities to which they gave occasion. But though this be admitted, it is evident that it was their wretched bigotry to which these unhappy scenes owed their origin; and that the members of that association manifested a spirit the very reverse of real and enlightened Protestants, and disgraceful to the national character. Such an exhibition of bigotry in England was also the more dishonourable, because the present age is much enlightened on the subject of toleration; and even Papists acknowledge the pernicious tendency of intolerance, and manifest a more liberal spirit in various parts of Europe. Some, indeed, have supposed that these disorders were the result of a premeditated design, and were conducted by men of resolution, who acted in concert; and who, though under concealment, directed all the motions of the populace. Others suspected that the emissaries of France were not idle during these commotions, and would not fail to promote all the mischief of which they were capable. In short, whatever foundations there might be for suspicions or surmises of this or any other kind, there is scarce a doubt if these horrid scenes had lasted a few days longer, that all the glory and power of this country would have been consumed in the flames of London, and that law, commerce, and religion would have been buried under the ruins of our metropolis.

As soon as this violent and unexpected commotion began to subside, it was thought proper to secure Lord George Gordon.—He was arrested, and committed close prisoner to the Tower, after having undergone a long examination before the principal lords of the council.

On the 19th of June, the Parliament was opened, after this compulsory recess, by a speech from the throne, in which notice was taken that the outrages committed by bands of desperate and abandoned men, had so overborne all civil authority, and threatened so directly the subversion of all legal power, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order in the state, that his Majesty found himself obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to his people, to suppress, in every part, those rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the public safety, by the most effectual and immediate application of the force entrusted to him by Parliament.—His Majesty also added, that proper orders had been given for bringing the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of such insurrections, and of such criminal acts, to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment as the laws prescribed, and the vindication of public justice demanded, &c. The speech was generally approved on all sides, and the customary addresses carried without any opposition. Some animadversion, however, passed in both Houses upon the conduct of administration, with respect to the late disturbances: the mischiefs that had happened, and all the unhappy consequences that might ensue, being directly charged to their neglect, in not calling forth the civil power in time; and to their delay, in not employing the military till it was too late. But the services were so numerous, and the applications so continual, and from such various quarters, for protection or assistance, that the troops at hand

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1780 do not appear to have been in any degree sufficient to answer the demands, until the arrival of the regulars and militia from the country.

The following day brought on, in a committee of the whole House, the consideration of the several petitions praying for a repeal of the late bill, which had been made the occasion of so much mischief: but no repeal was proposed upon those petitions; as the consequences apprehended from the bill were considered as merely visionary. The question was, however, very solemnly debated; and the first speakers of both parties in the House of Commons, greatly distinguished themselves in supporting not only the bill itself, but a much broader system of toleration than that which supported it.

In order, however, to quiet the minds, and to remove the apprehensions of such well-meaning, but ill-informed persons, as might be among the petitioners, resolutions to the following purport were moved for by Lord Beauchamp, agreed to by the committee, and confirmed by the whole House:—"That the effect and operation of the act passed in the 18th of his present Majesty, for relieving his subjects professing the Popish religion from certain penalties and restrictions imposed on them by an act of the 11th and 12th of William the Third, have been misrepresented and misunderstood.—That the said act of the 18th of his present Majesty, does not repeal or alter, or in any manner invalidate the several statutes made to prohibit the exercise of the Popish religion, previous to the statute of the 11th and 12th of King William III.—That no ecclesiastical or spiritual jurisdiction or authority is given, by the said act, to the Pope or the See of Rome.—That this House does, and ever will, watch over the interests of the Protestant religion with the most unremitted attention; and that all attempts to seduce the youth of this kingdom from the established church to Popery, are highly criminal, according to the laws in force, and are a proper subject of further regulation:—And that all endeavours to disquiet the minds of the people, by misrepresenting the said act of the 18th year of the reign of his present Majesty, as inconsistent with the safety, or irreconcilable to the principles of the Protestant religion, have a manifest tendency to disturb the public peace, to break the union necessary at this time, to bring dishonour on the national character, to discredit the Protestant religion in the eyes of other nations, and to furnish occasion for the renewal of the persecution of the Protestant brethren in other countries."

On the 28th of June, a bill, brought in by Sir George Saville, for preventing persons professing the Romish religion from teaching or educating the children of Protestants, was passed the House of Commons: but the House of Lords, influenced by a laudable spirit of toleration, and at the same time considering the bill as carrying the appearance of being forced upon them by outrage and menace, thought proper to reject it.

On the 8th of July, his Majesty preceded the prorogation of Parliament with a speech from the throne, the strength of which seems to be thrown into the concluding paragraph; in which both Lords and Commons were earnestly called upon to assist his Majesty, by their influence and authority in their several counties, as they had already by their unanimous support in Parliament, in guarding the peace of the kingdom from future disturbances, and watching over the preservation of the public safety; to make the people sensible of the happiness they enjoy, and the distinguished advantages they derive from our excellent constitution in church and state; to warn them of the hazard of innovation; to point out to them the fatal consequences of such commotions as had lately been excited; and to impress on their minds this important truth—That rebellious insurrections, to resist or reform the laws, must either end in the destruction of the person who makes the attempt, or in the subversion of our free and happy constitution.

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1780 stitution.—This may also be considered as concluding the political existence of that Parliament, which was dissolved on the 1st of the September following.

Though no great probability had hitherto appeared of a reduction of the British colonies in America, yet the preceding campaign had terminated with great disadvantage on the side of the Americans. The maritime force of the New England provinces had been almost wholly destroyed at Ponobscot; and they had suffered a great and mortifying defeat at Savannah: the projects formed by D'Estaing had been frustrated in the completest manner. He had been compelled to retire with a shattered fleet and a broken army. Unable to prosecute any further operations, he was now returned to France, and the Colonies were again left to their sole exertions, with little prospect of receiving any assistance from their French allies, in sufficient time to obviate effectually the attempts that might be made in consequence of the superiority now obtained by the British forces.

If the French admiral had succeeded in Georgia, the siege of New York would certainly have been undertaken, according to a plan concerted between him and General Washington; and the apprehension of such an event had obliged the British commanders at New York to make every necessary preparation for a vigorous defence. But Count D'Estaing having failed in his preliminary operations, and considerable bodies of troops which had joined the American army, in full confidence of putting an end to the war by a decisive blow, having returned home in a state of great discontent, it was resolved to carry the British arms southward, where the distance from the centre of the enemies strength opened a fair prospect of success, and where an impression upon them would be more severely felt than in any other quarter, from the greater value of the countries which were the objects of reduction, in point of wealth, commercial produce, and importance.

The possession of Georgia afforded a ready access to the large and valuable province of Carolina: it was determined, therefore, to make this the object of an expedition; and, towards the close of the last year, Sir Henry Clinton embarked with a considerable land force, under convoy of a strong squadron, commanded by Admiral Arbuthnot. Their destination was Savannah; but their progress being much retarded by contrary winds and stormy weather, they did not arrive off the coast of Georgia till the expiration of January. On the 12th of February, the army was safely landed on the islands in the vicinity of Charlestown, and from thence proceeded to the banks of Ashley's river, between which and Cooper's river the town is situated. On the 1st of April, they broke ground within 800 yards of the American works and by the 8th of the same month the besiegers guns were mounted in battery. On the 10th, Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot summoned the town to surrender to his Majesty's arms; but General Lincoln, who commanded there, declaring it to be his intention to defend it to the last extremity, the siege commenced, and was carried on with the utmost bravery, skill, and perseverance. On the 8th of May, the British commanders again summoned the town to surrender, the offer being repeated, that on an immediate surrender, the lives and property of the inhabitants should be preserved to them. Articles of capitulation were then proposed by General Lincoln, which did not receive the approbation of Sir Henry Clinton and Admiral Arbuthnot: at length, however, the town being closely invested on all sides, and the preparations to storm it in every part being in great forwardness, the American general, on the 11th of May, agreed to surrender on the terms which had already been proposed to him.—By the articles of capitulation, the continental troops and sailors were to remain prisoners of war till exchanged, but not to be despoiled of their private property: the militia in garrison

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1780 were to be permitted to return to their respective homes, as prisoners on parole; which parole, while they observed it, was to secure them from being molested in their property by the British troops. The citizens of Charlestown were comprehended in this article; while the subjects of France and Spain were allowed to retain their effects, and to be permitted to leave the place, but to continue prisoners on parole.—The prisoners made on this occasion amounted to upwards of 6,000, amongst whom were 1,000 sailors: several general officers were also involved in the surrender, and a great number of private persons, from the great eagerness with which all who were in the vicinity of Charlestown repaired to its defence. The artillery that fell into the hands of the victors consisted of near 400 pieces, with four large frigates, a great number of boats, and a very considerable quantity of military stores.

The consequence of the reduction of Charlestown, was a general discouragement of the people of the neighbouring provinces, and no small alarm and discontent throughout the continent, when the vast expectations excited by Count D'Estaing were contrasted with his failure, and the successes of the British arms under Sir Henry Clinton. In order, however, to prevent him, if possible, from improving them, great exertions were made by the Americans to collect a force sufficient to make some kind of stand, till a proper army could be formed. For this purpose, detachments from several parts were drawn to the borders of North Carolina, where it was naturally expected the next motions of the British army would be directed. On receiving this intelligence, Lord Cornwallis marched up the country, and completely destroyed the remaining force of the enemy in that quarter.

After this success, the reduction of the extensive province of South Carolina was deemed so complete, at the time of Sir Henry Clinton's returning to his government of New York, that he informs the minister for the American department, in his letter, that there were few men in the province who were not either prisoners to, or in arms with the British forces; and he cannot restrain his exultation, at the number of the inhabitants who came in, from every quarter, to testify their allegiance, and to offer their services in arms, in support of his Majesty's government; and who, in many instances, had brought as prisoners their former leaders. That officer accordingly, in settling the affairs and government of the province, adopted a scheme of obliging it to contribute largely to its own defence, and even to look forward in present exertion to future security, by taking an active share in the suppression of the rebellion on its borders. With this view, he was determined to admit of no neutrals, and that every man who did not avow himself an enemy to the British government, should take an active part in its support. On this principle, all persons were expected to be in readiness with their arms at a moment's warning; those who had families, to form a militia for the home defence; but those who had none, to serve with the royal forces, for any six months of the ensuing twelve, in which they might be called upon, to assist "in driving their rebel oppressors, and all the miseries of war, far from the province," &c.

This system of subduing one part of the Americans by the other, and of establishing such an internal force in each subjugated colony, as would be nearly, if not entirely, equal to its defence, had been often held out, and frequently suggested in England, as extremely practicable. It therefore became the duty of Sir Henry Clinton to form such a plan in South Carolina, and for Lord Cornwallis, who succeeded him in the government, to pursue it: but all their sanguine expectations seem to have had but a shallow foundation, and the first moment of serious trial brought disappointment along with it. Indeed, in a very short time after Sir Henry Clinton's departure from Charlestown, it appeared that many of the inhabitants

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1780 were so dissatisfied with the present government, that they endeavoured to dispose of their property upon such terms as they could obtain, and to abandon the province. This conduct became so frequent and glaring, that Lord Cornwallis found it necessary towards the end of July, to issue a proclamation, strictly forbidding all sales and transfers of property, including even negroes, without a licence first obtained from the commandant of Charlestown; and likewise prohibiting all masters of vessels from carrying any person whatever, whether black or white, out of the colony, without a written passport from the same officer. The battle of Camden, that took place in the month of August, in which Lord Cornwallis gained a complete victory over the American army commanded by General Gates, convinced the English general that the return of American loyalty was a matter of no solid reliance; that he could do little more than answer for the ground on which he encamped; and that in the war in which he commanded, success did not wait upon victory.

The affairs of America continued also to be extremely critical: the difficulties of the Congress and the people had been greatly increased by the depreciation of their paper currency.— At the time when the colonies engaged in a war with Great Britain, they had no regular civil government established among them of sufficient energy to enforce the collection of taxes, or to provide funds for the redemption of such bills of credit as their necessities obliged them to issue. In consequence of this state of things, their bills increased in quantity far beyond the sum necessary for the purpose of a circulating medium; and as they wanted, at the same time, specific funds to rest on for their redemption, they saw their paper currency daily sink in value. The depreciation continued, by a kind of gradual progression, from the year 1777 to 1780; so that, at the latter period, the continental dollars were passed, by common consent, in most parts of America, at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ ths below their nominal value. The impossibility of keeping up the credit of the currency to any fixed standard, occasioned great, and almost insuperable embarrassments, in ascertaining the value of property, or carrying on trade with any sufficient certainty. Those who sold, and those who bought, were left without a rule whereon to form any judgment of their profit or their loss, and every species of commerce or exchange, whether foreign or domestic, was exposed to numberless and increasing difficulties. The consequences of the depreciation of the paper currency were also felt with peculiar severity by such of the Americans as were employed in their military services, and greatly augmented their other hardships. The requisitions made by the Congress to the several colonies for supplies, were also far from being always regularly complied with; and their troops were not unfrequently in want of the most common necessities, which very naturally occasioned complaints and discontents among them. Some of these difficulties, as they resulted from their particular situation, no wisdom, perhaps, could have prevented; but they seem to have arisen, in part, from the Congress not being sufficiently acquainted with the principles of finance, and from a defect of system in the departments of their government. The cause of the Americans appears also to have suffered somewhat by their depending too much on temporary enlistments: but the Congress endeavoured, towards the close of the year 1783, to put their army upon a more permanent footing, and to give all the satisfaction to their officers and soldiers which their circumstances would admit. They appointed a committee for arranging their finances, and made some new regulations respecting their war-office and treasury-board, and other public departments. But, notwithstanding these, and various other oppressive disadvantages under which they at this time laboured, the Americans appeared to entertain no doubts but that they should be able to maintain their independency; and, on the 4th of July, celebrated the anniversary

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1780 versary of its declaration at Philadelphia, with no inconsiderable display of patriotic festivity and public rejoicing.

A very principal motive for Spain to join the confederacy against Great Britain was the anxious and natural desire to recover Gibraltar. The possession of this important fortress by a foreign power was highly mortifying to the Spanish court and nation. It was compared to the long retention of Calais by the English, in former days, and the recovery of it was deemed as essential to the honour of the Spaniards, as that of Calais had been reputed by the French, in regard to their own. The principal plan of action was formed according to this idea, which was warmly adopted throughout Spain, and served, in no small degree, to reconcile the people to a war, which was, in other respects, so much against their real interests. As soon as the rupture was determined upon at Madrid, the Spanish court gave immediate orders to the commanding officer of the forces in the vicinity of Gibraltar, to cut off all communication with that place, and to invest it in the closest manner possible.

While the Spanish general blockaded Gibraltar by land, the admiral, Don Barcelo, did the same by sea; but notwithstanding his superiority, the British ships of force then in the bay, exerted themselves with so much activity and spirit, as to elude his vigilance on numberless occasions.

The principal inconvenience under which the garrison laboured, was the frequent scarcity of fresh provisions: it had hitherto been abundantly supplied from the coast of Barbary, but to what causes it might be owing, a surprizing and unaccountable alteration had taken place in some of the states along that coast. The Emperor of Morocco, in particular, had transferred his friendship from Great Britain to Spain, in a manner wholly unprecedented. He espoused the cause of the latter with a zeal and partiality the more astonishing, as Britain had given him no provocation, and as the enmity subsisting for so many ages between the Spaniards and Moors, was in a manner constitutional, and founded upon causes that could never cease to operate. So great, however, were the industry and resolution of the British officers and seamen, that, in spite of all obstructions, they frequently found means to procure the refreshments that were wanted. In the mean time, the defence of the garrison was so vigorous, even while it continued to be supplied in this scanty manner, that the enemy began to lose all hope of reducing it. In order, however, to deprive it of this support, they formed a project of burning all the shipping in the bay of Gibraltar. For this purpose, in the night of the 6th of June, favoured by an uncommon darkness, ten fire-ships stood over from the Spanish to the British side of the bay; but from the enemy's precipitation in firing their ships too soon, and to the heavy cannonade with which they were received, the attempt was frustrated. The failure of this project was followed by the defeat of many others:—No sooner had the enemy pushed their works forward, and constructed new batteries, than they were constantly destroyed; so that the labour of many days was often lost in a very few hours, and the whole to be recommenced with little prospect of future success.

According to a return made of the inhabitants and garrison of Gibraltar about this time, the number of inhabitants was 3201; of which there were 506 English, 1832 Roman Catholics, and 863 Jews.—The houses amounted to 446, of which 195 belonged to Protestants, 144 to Roman Catholics, and 107 to Jews. The garrison consisted of the 12th, 39th, 56th, 58th, 72d, and 73d English, with three Hanoverian regiments.

Notwithstanding the misfortune which had befallen Spain in the capture and destruction of the squadron under Admiral Langara, it was judged incumbent on the House of Bourbon to preserve

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1780 preserve that appearance of strength which they had at first displayed. A junction was consequently formed of the French and Spanish fleets, in the same manner as in the preceding year, though with a very inferior force. To this naval combination was opposed the British fleet of thirty ships of the line, commanded by Admiral Geary, who sailed from Spithead in the early part of June, and in the beginning of July, was so fortunate as to fall in with a rich fleet from Port au Prince, of which he took twelve sail; the rest, with the ships of war that convoyed them, escaped, from the haziness of the weather. But the satisfaction afforded by this success, was shortly lost in the contemplation of one of the heaviest blows that had ever been sustained by the British commerce: a rich and considerable fleet, for the East and West Indies, under the conduct of Captain Moutray of the *Ramilies*, and two or three frigates, was intercepted, on the 9th of August, by the combined fleet, under the command of Don Louis de Cordova: five East India ships (which, besides arms, ammunition, and a train of artillery, were conveying a large quantity of naval stores, for the supply of the British squadron in the East) and above fifty West Indiamen were taken; the *Ramilies*, with the frigates, and a few of the West India ships, had the good fortune to escape. This fleet included, besides the East Indiamen and merchantmen, eighteen victuallers, with a number of storeships and transports, destined for his Majesty's service in the West Indies. But the principal detriment sustained by this capture, was the loss of seamen and troops, and of the supplies which were so much wanted in the different places for which they were intended. The number of prisoners amounted to 2,700 sailors and soldiers, near 100 officers, and about 200 passengers of both sexes.

As the combined fleet was known to be at Cadiz, and its putting to sea anxiously apprehended, it was certainly a very extraordinary conduct in government to suffer such a fleet to take a course so close to the coast of Spain; at least, if such a course had been necessary, the grand fleet itself could not have been better employed than in guarding such a rich and important *flota* till it was out of danger. But the reason assigned for this unfortunate risque, that it was run in order to accommodate the merchants and the East India Company, was by no means sufficient to justify the business; for it does not appear that it was at all necessary to steer close to the continent of Europe in order to touch at the *Madeiras*; and, besides, as there was not a force sufficient for its protection, the course should have been varied, and suited to the emergency and danger. Indeed, the mercantile accommodation, however it may be, in general, a very essential object of ministerial attention, was not of that degree of importance as to justify such an hazard: the merchants might have provided their wines in another manner.—The consideration of such matters belonged properly and solely to the ministers at large, and to the admiralty in particular: they possessed all the means of information, and it therefore became their duty, in all such cases, to inform the ignorance, or to correct the selfishness of the mercantile adventurer.

About the same time, an account was received of the loss of a great part of the outward-bound Quebec fleet, which was intercepted off the banks of Newfoundland in the beginning of July, by some American privateers. Several of these vessels were retaken, but about fourteen rich ships were carried entirely off. These losses were very severely felt, and operated as a heavy counterbalance to the captures the British privateers and ships of war had made from the enemy.

While, however, all the rest of Europe were entering into a confederacy, calculated for the subversion of the British naval power, the Queen of Portugal alone persevered in her friendship for us, and refused to accede to the armed neutrality. This refusal was the more generous, as

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1780 it was, in effect, rendering herself liable to the resentment of the House of Bourbon, at a time when the ability of England for her protection became every day more precarious. It was, therefore, much to be regretted, that this friendship was in some degree weakened, and in danger of being lost, through the imprudence of some British officers on the coast of Portugal, who, not contented with the advantages which they derived from the free use of her ports, and the security thereby afforded to their prizes, are said to have proceeded to equip and fit out cruizers in the river Tagus, in order to act against the enemy. This produced an order from that court, prohibiting the privateers of all nations from entering her ports, excepting in cases of real necessity; and forbidding, even then, their longer stay than that necessity might demand.

Since the commencement of hostilities between Great Britain and her colonies, an intercourse very hostile to the former had been carried on by the Dutch with the latter: though not openly avowed by the States-General, it was encouraged by numbers of individuals, not only of the commercial classes who profited by it, but of all other denominations. The emissaries of France excited such a spirit of enmity to Britain, that all the representations which were made of the detriment accruing to them, from such a conduct being permitted or connived at, did not appear to make any impression on the States.

When France declared herself in favour of America, the French faction, which had been daily gaining strength, determined to follow the example of that power; but in order, at the same time, to avoid the resentment of Great Britain, judged it safest to enter into a clandestine treaty with the Americans: for this purpose, a private negociation was set on foot with the commissioners appointed by the Congress.

This negociation was principally patronised by the regency of Amsterdam, a city that had long been notorious for its partiality to the cause of France, or indeed of any power that was hostile to Great Britain. The pensionary of this city, Mr. Van Berkel, a man of abilities, and a sworn enemy to the English, was the person who conducted this business: being, from his office, a minister of state of the greatest authority and influence, it was speedily settled.—Thus an alliance was produced between the Dutch and the Americans, of which the common enmity of both to the British nation became the strongest bond. The terms of the treaty were indeed provisional, and the treaty itself purely commercial; but the Americans were clearly considered, in the whole of it, as a free and independent nation.

Though Amsterdam alone seemed to act upon this occasion, yet the world well understood, that the weight of this great and powerful city was too heavy to be counterbalanced by that of the whole province of which it is the capital, or even of all the Seven United Provinces. It was from a knowledge of this, together with the superiority of the French faction in Holland, that the Congress relied on the validity of any measures and transactions that might take place between the respective agents of the contracting parties. Still, however, this treaty was negociated and concluded in the utmost concealment and privacy.—It was signed on the 4th of September, 1778, by Mr. De Neufville, a Dutch merchant, on the one hand, and Mr. William Lee, on the other; both of whom repaired to Aix la Chapelle for that purpose, in order to avoid all suspicion.

This transaction had now lain dormant two entire years, and the ruling powers in America began to be very impatient to bring it forward, and to obtain an open acknowledgement of it on the part of Holland. The events of these two years were such, as encouraged them to think that the Dutch would not be backward to comply with their wishes. Much altercation

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1780 had taken place, and no small disgust created between Great Britain and Holland, from the continual assistance which the latter afforded to France, and the resolute methods which the former had adopted in order to prevent it.

Such was the situation of affairs, when Congress resolved to depute a person of the highest rank among them to Holland, in the character of an ambassador, for the purpose of bringing forward the business of an alliance between both countries to a solid and effectual conclusion. The person chosen for this important business, was Mr. Henry Laurens, late President of the Congress, a gentleman of acknowledged abilities and respectable character. The high station he had filled with so much propriety and applause, gave additional weight to the commission he was invested with,—were considerations that might be naturally expected to accelerate the union proposed between Holland and America. With this view he embarked at Philadelphia in a Congress packet, which, on the third of September, was taken by the Vestal, Captain Keppel, near Newfoundland. He had thrown his papers overboard; but they were recovered, without having received any material injury; and, on his arrival in England, after having undergone an examination before the Privy Council, Mr. Laurens was committed close prisoner to the Tower, on the sixth of October, on a charge of high treason. Among his papers was found the treaty we have already mentioned, and which was entitled, A Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the Republic of Holland and the United States of America. This important instrument we shall give at large.

The preamble recites, “ That the said contracting states of Holland and America, wishing to establish a treaty of commerce, have resolved to fix it on the basis of a perfect equality, and the reciprocal utility arising from the equitable laws of a free trade; provided, that the contracting parties shall be at liberty to admit, as they think good, other nations to partake of the advantages arising from the said trade actuated by the above equitable principles, the before-mentioned contracting parties have agreed on the following articles :

“ Art. I. There shall be a permanent, unalterable, and universal peace and amity, established between their High Mightinesses of the Seven Provinces of Holland, and the United States of North America; as well as between their respective subjects, islands, towns and territories, situate under the jurisdiction of the respective states above-mentioned, and their inhabitants, without any distinction whatsoever of persons or sexes.

“ II. The subjects of the United Provinces of Holland shall be liable only to such duties as are paid by the natives and inhabitants of North America, in all the countries, ports, islands and towns belonging to the said states; and shall enjoy the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in their trade and navigation, common to the said natives and inhabitants, when the subjects of Holland shall have occasion to pass from one American state to another, as well as when bound from thence to any part of the world.

“ III. The privileges, &c. granted by the foregoing article to the States of Holland, are, by the present, confirmed to the inhabitants of North America.

“ IV. The respective subjects of the contracting parties, as well as the inhabitants of the countries, islands, or towns belonging to the said parties, shall be at liberty, without producing a written permission, private or public pass, to travel by land or water, or in whatever manner they think best, through the kingdoms, territories, provinces, &c. or dominions whatever, of either of the confederated states, to have their free egress and regress, to remain in the said places, and during the whole time be at liberty to purchase every thing necessary to their own subsistence and use: they shall also be treated with every mark of reciprocal friend-

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1780 ship and favour. Provided nevertheless, that in every circumstance they demean themselves in perfect conformity with the laws, statutes, and ordinances of those said kingdoms, towns, &c. where they may sojourn; treating each other with mutual friendship, and keeping up among themselves the most perfect harmony, by means of a constant correspondence.

“ V. The subjects of the contracting powers, and the inhabitants of all places belonging to the said powers, shall be at liberty to carry their ships and goods (such as are not forbidden by the law of the respective states) into all ports, places, &c. belonging to the said powers, and to tarry, without any limitation of time: to hire whole houses, or in part: to buy and purchase from the manufacturer or retailer, either in the public markets, fairs, &c. all sorts of goods and merchandize not forbidden by any particular law: to open warehouses for the sale of goods and effects imported from other parts: nor shall they be at any time forced against their consent, to bring the said goods and wares to the markets and fairs; provided, nevertheless, that they do not dispose of them by retail, or elsewhere: they shall not, however, be liable to any tax or duties, on this or any other account, except those only which are to be paid for their ships or goods, according to the laws and customs of the respective states, and at the rate stipulated by the present treaty. Moreover, they shall be entirely at liberty to depart, without the least hinderance, (this extends also to their wives, children, and such servants who may be desirous to follow their master) and to take with them all goods bought or imported at any time; and for such places as they may think proper, by land, or sea, or rivers, or lakes; all privileges, laws, concessions, immunities, &c. to the contrary notwithstanding.

“ VI. In regard to religious worship, the most unbounded liberty shall be granted to the subjects of the said confederate states, for themselves and families. They shall not be compelled to frequent the churches, &c. but shall have full liberty to perform divine service, after their own manner, without any molestation in either church or chapel, or private houses (*apertis foribus*). It is further provided, that any subject of one of the contracting powers dying, in any place belonging to the other, shall be interred in decent and convenient places, allotted for that purpose; and, in fine, that no insult shall, at any time, or in any manner whatever, be offered to the dead or interred bodies.

“ VII. It is farther agreed and settled, that in all duties, imposts, taxes, &c. laid on goods, persons, merchandize, &c. of each and every subject of the contracting powers, under any denomination whatsoever, the said subjects, inhabitants, &c. shall enjoy equal privileges, franchises, immunities, either in the courts of justice, and in every matter of trade, commerce, or any other case, and shall be treated with the same favour and distinction hitherto granted, or hereafter to be granted to any foreign nation whatsoever.

“ VIII. Their High Mightinesses the States General of the Seven United Provinces, shall use the most efficacious means in their power, to protect the ships and goods belonging to any of the United States of America, be they public or private property, when in the ports, roads, or seas adjoining the said islands, &c. belonging to their said High Mightinesses, and to use all their endeavours to bring about a restitution to be made to the owners, or their agents, of all vessels and goods captured within their jurisdiction; and the ships of war belonging to their said High Mightinesses shall take under their protection, and convoy the ships belonging to the said American States, or any of the subjects or inhabitants thereof, following the same course, and defend the said ship as long as they remain in company, against all attacks, violence, or oppression, in like manner as they are in duty bound to defend the ships of their High Mightinesses the Seven United Provinces of Holland.

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“ IX. By this article, the same obligation is laid on the American States, in favour of the shipping, &c. belonging to those of Holland.

“ X. Their High Mightinesses the States of Holland shall interpose, and employ their good offices in favour of the said American States, their subjects and inhabitants, with the Emperor of Morocco, the Regencies of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, and all along the coast of Barbary and Africa, and with the subjects of the said powers, that the ships, &c. of the said American States, be as much as possible, and to the best advantage, protected against the violences, insults, depredations, &c. of the abovesaid princes and subjects on the coast of Barbary and Africa.

“ XI. It shall be permitted and granted to each and every subject and inhabitant of the contracting powers, to leave, bequeath, or dispose of, in case of sickness, or at their death, all effects, goods, merchandizes, ready money, &c. being their property, at or before their decease, in any town, island, &c. belonging to the respective contracting powers, in favour of such person or persons, as they may think proper. Moreover, whether the said subjects should die after having made such wills, or intestate, their lawful heirs, executors, or administrators, dwelling in any part of the possessions of the contracting powers, or aliens coming from other countries, shall be at liberty, without hindrance or delay, to claim, and take possession of, all such goods and effects, conformably to the respective laws of each country. Nor shall their right be disputed, under pretence of any prerogative, peculiar to any separate province, or person whatsoever. Provided, nevertheless, that the claim to the effects of a person who died intestate, be supported by such proofs as the laws of either of the contracting powers have provided in such cases; all laws, statutes, edicts, *droits d'Aubine*, &c. to the contrary notwithstanding.

“ XII. The effects and property of the subjects of either of the contracting powers, dying in any town, island, &c. belonging to the other, shall be sequestered for the use of the lawful heirs and successors of the deceased. The council, or public minister of the nation, to which the person thus dying belonged, shall take an inventory of all such goods, effects, papers, writings, and books of account of the deceased. The said inventory to be delivered into the hands of three merchants of known and approved integrity, who shall be nominated for the purpose of acting as trustees to the heirs, executors, &c. or creditors of the deceased: nor shall any court of judicature interfere, unless the said heirs, &c. should require it in the due course of law.

“ XIII. The respective subjects of the contracting parties, shall be at liberty to choose for themselves advocates, attornies, notaries, solicitors, and agents; to this end, that such advocates, &c. shall, by the judges of the court aforesaid, be called in, if the said judges should, by the parties, be required so to do.

“ XIV. The merchants, commanders, or owners of ships, sailors of every denomination, ships or vessels, effects, and goods in general, belonging to either party, or any of its subjects or inhabitants, shall, at no time, for any private or public purpose, by virtue of any edict whatsoever, be taken, or detained in the countries, ports, islands, &c. belonging to either of the contracting parties, to be employed in the service, to forward military expeditions, or any other purpose; and much less for the private use of any one, by violence, or other means made use of to molest or insult the said subjects. It is farther strictly forbidden to the said subjects, on both sides, not to take away, violently, the property of each other; but, the consent of the proprietor once obtained, they shall be at liberty to purchase, paying ready money for the

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1780 fame. This article, however, is not to be understood as extending to such cases, where the seizure shall be made, or the embargo laid by the authority of the legislative power for debts incurred, or crimes committed, which shall be tried by the due course of law.

“ XV. It is farther provided and agreed, that all merchants, commanders of ships, and other subjects belonging to their High Mightinesses the States of the Seven United Provinces, shall regulate their private affairs by themselves, or by such agents as they may chuse, in all and every place within the jurisdiction of the United States of America: nor shall they be compelled to employ, or pay any interpreter or broker, but such as they think fit to appoint. Moreover, in the lading or unlading of ships, the masters shall not be obliged to employ persons appointed for that purpose, by public authority; but shall be at full liberty to do it themselves, or call in the assistance of any one they shall chuse, without being liable to pay any fee or retribution to any body. Neither shall they be compelled to land any particular merchandize, to put them on board other ships, to take others on board their own, without their free consent; or to remain laden longer than they shall think proper. The subjects and inhabitants of the United States of America, shall fully enjoy the same privileges in all the dominions of the States of Holland.

“ XVI. In case any dispute or controversy should arise between the master of a ship and his crew, belonging to one of the two nations, and then in any port within the dominions of the other, concerning the payment of wages, or any other matter to be determined by the civil law, the magistrate of such port, or place, shall only require the defendant to deliver to the plaintiff, a declaration under his hand, and witnessed by the said magistrate; by which the said defendant shall bind himself to appear, and answer the complaint laid against him, before a competent judge in his own country. This being done, the said crew shall not be permitted to leave the ship, or prevent the master from following his course. The merchants of either nation shall be authorized to keep their books in what language and manner they may think best, without the least hindrance or molestation. But, in case it should be necessary, in order to settle a point of law, for them to produce their books, they shall bring them into court for examination; in such a manner, however, that neither the judge, nor any one else, whatsoever, shall be permitted to peruse any article in the said books, but such as may be absolutely necessary to ascertain the authenticity and regularity of the said books. Nor shall any one, under any pretence whatever, presume to force the said books and writings from the owners, or detain them: cases of bankruptcy alone excepted.

“ XVII. The ships of either nation, bound to the respective ports, shall, upon a just cause of being suspected, either in regard to their destination or their cargoes, be obliged to produce, either at sea, in the roads, or ports, not only their passports, but also certificates, witnessing that the goods they have on board are not prohibited by the respective laws.

“ XVIII. If, upon such certificates being produced, the examining party should discover that some of the goods mentioned in the bills of lading are prohibited by this treaty, or bound to some port belonging to the enemy; in such case it shall not be lawful to break into any part of the ship, or force any trunks, boxes, barrels, &c. nor even to displace any part of the cargoes (whether such ship belongs to Holland or America) to come at the said goods, which are not in any ways to be searched until they are landed in the presence of some officers of the Admiralty Court, who shall enter a verbal process about them. Nor shall it be permitted to sell, exchange, or adulterate the said goods in any wise, till the law shall have taken its course, and the matter be determined by the sentence of the respective Admiralty Courts, pronouncing them

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1780 them seizable: the ship and other parts of the cargo not prohibited by treaty, shall not be detained, under the pretence of part of the lading being condemned, and much less confiscated as lawful prizes. But, in case part of the cargo should consist of the said prohibited goods, and the master of the ship shall consent to deliver them up immediately, then the captor, having taken out of the said ship the prohibited goods, shall permit the master to continue his course to the place of his destination: yet, if all the prohibited goods could not be taken on board the captor, the latter shall, notwithstanding the master's free tender of the said goods, bring the former into the nearest port, where it shall be produced in manner aforesaid.

" XIX. It is agreed on the contrary, that all effects, &c. of any subject of either state, found on any ship taken from an enemy, such effects, &c. though they be not prohibited by any article of this treaty, shall be considered as lawful prize, and be disposed of as if they belonged to the enemy: (except only in case the war should not have been proclaimed, or not come to the knowledge of the proprietors of the said effects, &c.) which, in such cases only, shall not be liable to be confiscated, but be immediately returned to the owners without any delay, upon their making good their claim; provided, nevertheless, that the said goods are not of the kind which are prohibited; nor will it be lawful to ship them afterwards, for any of the enemy's ports: the two contracting parties agreeing, moreover, that six months, from the date of a declaration of war, will be considered as a sufficient notice to the subjects of either state, whatever quarter of the world they may come from.

XX. In order to provide farther for the safety of the subjects on both sides, that neither of the parties may be annoyed by the armed ships or privateers belonging to the other, during the course of a war, particular injunctions shall be laid upon the commanders of ships and privateers, &c. &c. to the respective subjects of the contracting powers, not to vex or offer any molestation to any one of them; and, in case of failure herein, the offending party shall be punished, and compelled to make good the damage, their persons and fortunes answering for the same.

" XXI. All ships and effects retaken from privateers or pirates, shall be carried into some of the ports belonging to either state, and returned to the owners, upon their giving satisfactory proofs of their right to the said recaptures.

" XXII. It shall be lawful for all commanders of ships of war, privateers, &c. to carry off freely all ships and effects taken from the enemy, without being subject to pay any duty or duties to the admiralty or other courts; nor shall such prizes be liable to be detained or seized upon in any of the ports of the respective states: the searching officers shall not be permitted to visit or search the said prizes: the captors whereof will be at liberty to put back to sea, and to convoy the prizes wherever they are directed to be carried; as specified in the orders given to the commanders of such ships, privateers, &c. which they shall be obliged to produce. But all the ports of both states shall be shut against all prizes made on the subjects of either: and in case such prizes and captors should be driven to some of the said ports, by stress of weather, every means shall be employed to hasten their departure.

" XXIII. In case any ships, boats, &c. should be wrecked or otherwise damaged on the coasts of either of the contracting states, all aid and assistance shall be given to the distressed crews, to whom passes and free-conduct shall be granted for their return into their own country.

" XXIV. If a ship or ships, either of war, or employed for the purpose of trading, by one of the states, should, by stress of weather, imminent danger from pirates, enemies, &c. be compelled

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1780 compelled to take shelter in any ports, rivers, bays, &c. belonging to the other, they shall be treated with all humanity, friendship, and most cordial protection. Leave shall be granted them to take in provisions and refreshments at a reasonable rate, and to purchase whatever they may stand in need of, either for themselves or for the purpose of repairing the damage they may have suffered, and also for the continuation of their voyage. No obstacle whatever shall be laid in their way to stop or detain them in any of the said ports, &c. whence they shall be at liberty to sail, whenever they may think fit.

“ XXV. In order to put commerce in the most flourishing state, it is agreed, that, in case a war should at any time break out between the contracting parties, six months shall be allowed to the respective subjects for them to retire with their families and property, to whatever place they may judge proper; also to be at liberty, during the above space of time, to sell or otherwise dispose of their goods and chattels, without the least hindrance or molestation. But, above all, it is provided, that the said subjects shall not be detained, by arrestment or seizure. On the contrary, during the aforesaid six months, the respective states, and their subjects, or inhabitants, shall have good and speedy justice done to them; so that, during the said time, they may recover their goods and effects, whether they be in the public funds, or in private hands. And if any part thereof should happen to be embezzled, or that any insult or wrong should have been offered to the subjects, &c. of either state, the offending party shall give the immediate and convenient satisfaction for such embezzlement, wrong, or insult.

“ XXVI. The subjects, &c. of either state shall abstain from requiring or accepting any commissions or letters of marque from any power then at war with either of the said states, so as to command armed ships against either, and to their detriment; and if any individual belonging to either, should fail herein, he shall be dealt with as being guilty of piracy.

“ XXVII. It shall not be lawful for any privateer, not belonging to either of the contracting parties, which might be furnished with commissions, or letters of marque from any power, in actual enmity with either of them, to fit out their ships in any port belonging to the said states, therein sell their prizes, or make in any wise an exchange of their said ships, merchandize, goods, or effects, being the whole or part of the cargo contained in the aforesaid captures. Nor shall the said commanders be permitted to take in provisions, but just as much as will enable them to reach a port, nearest to the dominion of their employers.

“ XXVIII. Subjects and inhabitants of both the contracting parties shall be at liberty to navigate their ships (without any distinction of owners, to whom the cargo or cargoes may belong) from all ports whatever belonging to the powers, that then are, or afterwards may be in amity with either of the afore-mentioned states; as also to trade in their way to or from such places, ports, and towns belonging to the enemies of either party, whether the said place be within the jurisdiction of one or more powers. It is also hereby stipulated, that the freedom of shipping will be extended to the cargoes belonging to the respective subjects or inhabitants of the said states, though the whole, or part of the said cargo should be the enemy's property. This privilege is also to be constructed as extending to all persons whatever, on board the said ships (the military in the enemy's service only excepted) as well as contraband goods.

“ XXIX. This article contains a large enumeration of the goods prohibited to be carried to the enemy, which comprehends all manner of warlike stores. It gives also an account of such goods as may be lawfully exported; namely, cloathing and other manufactured goods of wool, cloth, silks, &c. &c. the matters employed in manufacturing the same; gold and silver either coined or in bullion, all sorts of metals, corn, and seeds, spices, tobacco, meat, salt or smoak-

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1780 ed, and every kind of eatables; in fine, ship timber, sails, canvas, and every effect whatever not fashioned in the shape of any tool or warlike instrument usually employed in war, either by sea or land: all the aforesaid goods and wares, shall at no time be looked upon as contraband, and may be carried by the subjects and inhabitants of the confederate states, even to the places belonging to the enemy then at war with either party, excepting only such towns and places, which might happen to be besieged, surrounded or blocked up at the time of shipping off, for their use, the said wares and goods.

“ XXX. In order to prevent all dissension and difficulty which might arise between the subjects of either state, in case one of them should go to war with some other power or powers, the shipping, &c. belonging to the other party, shall be provided with letters or passes, specifying the name, cargo, and burthen of the ship, together with the captain or master's name, and the place of his residence: that thus it may appear that the ship, &c. belongs truly to the said subjects and inhabitants. The said pass to be worded as shall be mentioned at the end of this present treaty.

“ These letters, or passes, shall be renewed every year, if the bearers should return to the same port within that time. It is farther agreed, that, besides the aforesaid passes, certificates shall be given, mentioning every part of the cargoes, the respective places from and to which such ships may be bound. The said certificates to be drawn up in the usual form, before the officers of the place from whence the said ships are to sail; and the said officers shall be at liberty to mention, by name, if they think it expedient, the owners of the cargo or cargoes.

“ XXXI. The commanders or owners of ships belonging to the contracting parties, entering into any of the roads of either of the said states, who may not think proper to enter into port; or, when entered, will not chuse to unload either the whole or part of their cargo, shall not be compelled to declare in what it consists, unless a well grounded suspicion should arise, on some evident circumstances, of their being laden for the enemy, or carrying from one of the confederate states, to the other, any prohibited goods; in which case, such commanders, owners, or inhabitants, shall be obliged to shew their passports and certificates, drawn up in the manner hereafter mentioned.

“ XXXII. When the ships, belonging to either state, sailing coastways, or otherwise, shall be met by the ships of war, privateers, &c. of the other party, in order to prevent mischief, the latter shall keep out of the reach of the guns, though it will be lawful for them to send their boats to board the above said merchantmen, not suffering above two or three men at a time to get on board to them. The master or commander of the said ship, shall present his passports, conformably to the tenor hereafter recited. After which, the said ship, or merchantman, shall be at full liberty to continue its voyage, without being searched, chased, or obliged to alter its course, or otherwise molested, under any pretence whatsoever.

“ XXXIII. It is farther agreed, that all goods and effects whatever, being once put on board of a ship, or ships, belonging to either of the contracting parties, shall not be liable to a second visit, or search, after having undergone that which must precede the lading of such ships; as all prohibited goods must be stopped on the very spot, before they are suffered to be carried on board the ships belonging to either party; the same not being liable to any other kind of embargo for the aforesaid cause. And the subjects of either state, where such effects shall, or should have been seized upon, shall be punished for importing the same, according to the manner provided by the laws, customs, and ordinances of his own native country.

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“ XXXIV. The contracting parties mutually agree, that they shall be at liberty to have their respective consuls, vice-consuls, commissaries, and other agents, appointed by, and for each party. Their functions and officers shall be regulated by a particular convention, whenever either of the contracting powers shall think proper to appoint such officers.

“ Here follows the form of the passport and certificate, the intention and purport of which, are sufficiently explained in the thirtieth article of this treaty.”

This discovery gave so much and such just offence to our court, that Sir Joseph Yorke, on the tenth of November, presented the following memorial to the States General.

“ The King, my master, has, through the whole course of his reign, shewed the most sincere desire to preserve the union which has subsisted upwards of a century, between his crown and the republic. This union is founded on the durable basis of a reciprocal interest, and as it has greatly contributed to the welfare of both nations, the natural enemy both of the one and the other is using his utmost policy to destroy it; and for some time past his endeavours have been but too successful, being supported by a faction that aims at domineering over the republic, and which is at all times ready to sacrifice the general interest to their own private views.

“ The King has beheld, with equal regret and surprise, the small effect which his repeated claims for the stipulated succours, and the representations of his ambassador on the daily violation of the most solemn engagements, have produced.

“ His Majesty's moderation has induced him to attribute this conduct of your High Mightinesses to intrigues of a prevailing faction; and he would still persuade himself, that your justice and discernment will determine you to fulfil your engagements towards him, and to prove by your whole conduct, that you are resolved vigorously to adhere to the system formed by the wisdom of your ancestors, which is the only one that can secure the safety and glory of the republic.

“ The answer which your High Mightinesses return to this declaration, which the undersigned makes by the express order of his court, will be considered as the touchstone of your intentions and sentiments respecting the King.

“ For a long time past the King has had innumerable indications of the dangerous designs of an unruly cabal; but the papers of Mr. Laurens, who styles himself President of the pretended Congress, furnishes the discovery of a plot, unexampled in all the annals of the republic. It appears by these papers, that the gentlemen of Amsterdam have been engaged in a clandestine correspondence with the American rebels, from the month of August, 1778, and that instructions and full powers had been given by them for the conclusion of a treaty of indisputable amity, with those rebels, who are the subjects of a sovereign to whom the republic is united by the closest engagements. The authors of this plot do not even attempt to deny it, but, on the contrary, vainly endeavour to justify their conduct.

“ In these circumstances, his Majesty, relying on the equity of your High Mightinesses, demands a formal disavowal of such irregular conduct, which is no less contrary to your most sacred engagements, than to the fundamental laws of the constitution of Batavia. The King demands equally a prompt satisfaction proportioned to the offence, and an exemplary punishment on the Pensioner Van Berkel, and his accomplices, as disturbers of the public peace, and violators of the law of nations.

“ His Majesty persuades himself, that the answer of your High Mightinesses will be speedy and satisfactory in all respects; but should the contrary happen; if you should refuse so just a demand,

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1780 demand, or endeavour to elude it by silence which will be regarded as a refusal, then the King cannot but consider the republic itself, as approving of those outrages which they refuse to disavow and to punish; and, after such conduct, his Majesty will find himself under the necessity of taking those measures, which the preservation of his own dignity, and the essential interests of his people demand. (Signed,)

“JOSEPH YORKE.”

No immediate answer being given by the States General to this memorial, the demand contained in it was pressed by the British ambassador in repeated conferences; and, on the 12th of December, he presented a second memorial, which concludes in the following manner.

“In deliberating upon that memorial, to which the under-signed here requires an immediate and satisfactory answer in every respect, your High Mightinesses will doubtless consider, that the affair is of the last importance; that it relates to the complaint of an offended sovereign; that the offence, for which he demands an exemplary punishment, and a complete satisfaction, is a violation of the Batavian constitution, of which the King is a guarantee; an infraction of the public faith; an attempt against the dignity of his crown. The King has never imagined, that your High Mightinesses had approved of a treaty with his rebellious subjects: that had been raising the buckler on your part, and would have been a declaration of war. But the offence has been committed by the magistrates of a city, which makes a considerable part of the State; and it belongs to the sovereign power to punish and give satisfaction for it.

“His Majesty, by the complaints made by his ambassador, has placed the punishment and the reparation in the hands of your High Mightinesses; and it will not be till the last extremity, that is to say, in the case of a denial of justice, or of silence, which must be interpreted as a refusal, that the King will take them upon himself.”

To this memorial no other answer was given, than it would be taken into consideration according to the usages and forms customary in such matters, and that a reply would be given as soon as the nature of their government would admit. This answer, however, not proving satisfactory to the court of Great Britain, it came to the resolution of recalling the British ambassador from the Hague, and of proceeding to immediate hostilities against the subjects of the United Provinces; and, on the 20th of December, the following manifesto was published.

“GEORGE R.

“Through the whole course of our reign, our conduct towards the States General of the United Provinces has been that of a sincere friend and faithful ally. Had they adhered to those wise principles which used to govern the republic, they must have shewn themselves equally solicitous to maintain the friendship which has so long subsisted between the two nations, and which is essential to the interests of both: but, from the prevalence of a faction devoted to France, and following the dictates of that court, a very different policy has prevailed. The return made to our friendship, for some time past, has been an open contempt of the most solemn engagements, and a repeated violation of the public faith. On the commencement of the defensive war, in which we found ourselves engaged by the aggression of France, we shewed a tender regard for the interests of the States General, and a desire of securing to their subjects every advantage of trade, consistent with the great and just principle of our own defence. Our ambassador was instructed to offer a friendly negotiation, to obviate every thing that might lead to disagreeable discussion; and to this offer solemnly made by him to the States General, the second of November, 1778, no attention was paid. After the number of our enemies increased by the aggression of Spain, equally unprovoked with that of France, we

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1780 found it necessary to call upon the States General for the performance of their engagements.

The fifth article of the perpetual defensive alliance between our crown and the States General, concluded at Westminster the third of March, 1678, besides the general engagements for succours, expressly stipulates, "That that party of the two allies which is not attacked, shall be obliged to break with the aggressor in two months after the party attacked shall require it." Yet two years have passed without the least assistance given to us, without a single syllable in answer to our repeated demands. So totally regardless have the States been of their treaties with us, that they readily promised our enemies to observe a neutrality in direct contradiction to those engagements; and whilst they have withheld from us the succours they were bound to furnish, every secret assistance has been given the enemy; and inland duties have been taken off, for the sole purpose of facilitating the carriage of naval stores to France."

"In direct and open violation of treaty, they suffered an American pirate to remain several weeks in one of their ports, and even permitted a part of his crew to mount guard in a fort in the Texel. In the East Indies, the subjects of the States General, in concert with France, have endeavoured to raise up enemies against us. In the West Indies, particularly at St. Eustatia, every protection and assistance has been given to our rebellious subjects. Their privateers are openly received in the Dutch harbours; allowed to refit there; supplied with arms and ammunition; their crews recruited; their prizes brought in and sold; and all this in direct violation of as clear and solemn stipulations as can be made.

"This conduct, so inconsistent with all good faith, so repugnant to the sense of the wisest part of the Dutch nation, is chiefly to be ascribed to the prevalence of the leading magistrates of Amsterdam, whose secret correspondence with our rebellious subjects was suspected, long before it was made known by the fortunate discovery of a treaty, the first article of which is: 'There shall be a firm, inviolable, and universal peace and sincere friendship, between their High Mightinesses the States of the Seven United Provinces of Holland, and the United States of North America, and the subjects and people of the said parties; and between the countries, islands, cities and towns, situated under the jurisdiction of the said United States of Holland, and the said United States of America, and the people and inhabitants thereof, of every degree, without exception of persons and places.' This treaty was signed in September, 1778, by the express order of the Pensionary of Amsterdam, and other principal magistrates of that city. They now not only avow the whole transaction, but glory in it, and expressly say, even to the States General, that what they did, 'was what their indispensable duty required.' In the mean time, the States General declined to give any answer to the memorial presented by our ambassador; and this refusal was aggravated by their proceeding upon other business, nay, upon the consideration of this very subject to internal purposes; and, while they found it impossible to approve the conduct of their subjects, they still industriously avoided to give us the satisfaction so manifestly due.

"We had every right to expect, that such a discovery would have roused them to a just indignation at the insult offered to us and to themselves; and that they would have been eager to give us full and ample satisfaction for the offence, and to inflict the severest punishment upon the offenders. The urgency of the business, made an instant answer essential to the honour and safety of this country. The demand was accordingly pressed by our ambassador in repeated conferences with the ministers; and, in a second memorial, it was pressed with all the earnestness which could proceed from our ancient friendship, and the sense of recent injuries;

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1780 juries; and the answer now given to a memorial on such a subject, delivered about five weeks ago, is, 'That the States have taken it *ad referendum*.' Such an answer, upon such an occasion, could only be dictated by the fixed purpose of hostility meditated, and already resolved by the States, induced by the offensive councils of Amsterdam thus to countenance the hostile aggression, which the magistrates of that city have made in the name of the republic.

"There is an end to the faith of all treaties with them, if Amsterdam may usurp the sovereign power, may violate those treaties with impunity, by pledging the States to engagements directly contrary, and leaguering the republic with the rebels of a sovereign to whom she is bound by the closest ties. An infraction of the law of nations, by the meanest member of any country, gives the injured state a right to demand satisfaction and punishment: how much more so, when the injury complained of is a flagrant violation of public faith, committed by leading and predominant members in the state? Since then the satisfaction we have demanded is not given, we must, though most reluctantly, do ourselves that justice which we cannot otherwise obtain: we must consider the States General as parties in the injury which they will not repair, as sharers in the aggression which they refuse to punish, and must act accordingly. We have, therefore, ordered our ambassador to withdraw from the Hague, and shall immediately pursue such vigorous measures as the occasion fully justifies, and our dignity and the essential interests of our people require. From a regard to the Dutch nation at large, we wish it were possible to direct those measures wholly against Amsterdam; but this cannot be, unless the States General will immediately declare, that Amsterdam shall, on this occasion, receive no assistance from them, but be left to abide the consequences of its aggression.

"While Amsterdam is suffered to prevail in the general councils, and is backed by the strength of the State, it is impossible to resist so considerable a part, without contending with the whole. But we are too sensible of the common interests of both countries, not to remember, in the midst of such a contest, that the only point to be aimed at by us, is to raise a disposition in the councils of the republic to return to our ancient union, by giving us that satisfaction for the past and security for the future, which we shall be as ready to receive as they can be to offer, and to the attainment of which we shall direct all our operations. We mean only to provide for our own security, by defeating the dangerous designs that have been formed against us. We shall ever be disposed to return to friendship with the States General, when they sincerely revert to that system which the wisdom of their ancestors formed, and which has now been subverted by a powerful faction, conspiring with France against the true interests of the republic, no less than against those of Great Britain."

"G. R."

Thus another enemy was added to the formidable combination already subsisting against this country; an enemy, whose proximity and maritime strength greatly increased the dangers with which Great Britain was already surrounded. It was not, however, without the utmost astonishment, that the politicians of Europe beheld a connection formed between the House of Bourbon and the United Provinces. The very great inconveniencies to which they exposed themselves, by such a measure, were manifest, while the utility resulting from it was very problematical. In the opinion of the unprejudiced, it seemed, at best, to produce but a momentary advantage, and threatened to subject them to disadvantages in future, which would more than counterbalance any present benefit they might derive from it. Their alliance with America was considered, at the same time, as a measure dictated by the intrigues of France,

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1780 and taken up in a fit of resentment for the obstructions they had met with in the prosecution of their commercial schemes with both: thus, instead of attending to the essential and long established maxims of their policy, they were led away by the private views of their merchants and traders, whose transient benefit was unhappily consulted in preference to the permanent interest of the State.

The greater part of the English nation seemed to approve of the conduct of government on this occasion, and to think that the behaviour of the Dutch, at the present crisis, rendered hostilities justifiable and necessary. But there were many, also, who thought, that a war with Holland was an evil of too great magnitude to be hastily undertaken; especially at a time, when Great Britain had already so many enemies to contend with; who considered the injury and the diminution which the English commerce must sustain from a rupture with Holland; and who thought, that the conduct of the British ministry in this transaction, had not been characterized by that wisdom and moderation, which seemed to be indispensably requisite in the present very critical and dangerous situation of the affairs of Great Britain.

On the fifth of October, in this year, his Majesty's vessels the *Resolution* and the *Discovery* anchored at the Nore, from the celebrated voyage of circumnavigation which has done so much honour to the mind that projected, the nation that encouraged, and the naval officers that executed it. Captain Cook, who conducted it with so much fortitude, perseverance and ability, unfortunately for his country, lost his life in the course of it. But, in a work of a commercial nature, we should be very justly accused of inattention to its principal object, if the discoveries made in the several voyages undertaken by this great navigator, were to pass unnoticed by us. We shall, therefore, give a short abstract of them.

At the close of the year 1767, it was resolved by the Royal Society, that it would be proper to send persons into some part of the South Sea, to observe a transit of the planet Venus over the sun's disk, which, according to astronomical calculation, would happen in the year 1769; and, that the islands called Marquesas de Mendoza, or those of Rotterdam or Amsterdam, were the properest places then known for making such observation. In consequence of these resolutions, it was recommended to his Majesty, in a memorial from the Society, dated February, 1768, that he would be pleased to order such an observation to be made; upon which his Majesty signified to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty his pleasure, that a ship should be provided to carry such observers, as the Society should think fit, to the South Seas; and, accordingly, a vessel of 370 tons was prepared for that purpose. It was named the *Endeavour*, and commanded by Captain James Cook, who was soon after, by the Royal Society, appointed with Mr. Charles Green, a gentleman who had long been an assistant to Dr. Bradley, at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, to observe the transit. Captain Cook accordingly set sail from Plymouth on the 26th of August, 1768, accompanied in his voyage by Sir Joseph Banks, the present President of the Royal Society, and Dr. Solander. They made no discovery till they got within the Tropics, where they fell in with Lagoon Island, two groups of islands, Bird Island, and Chain Island, and they arrived, on the 13th of April, 1769, at Otaheite, where they had been instructed to make their observations, as a more proper place for the purpose than those which had been first suggested. During their stay at that island, they had the opportunity of making very accurate enquiries relative to its produce and inhabitants, and, on the 4th of June, the whole passage of the planet Venus over the sun's disk was observed by them, with great advantage. The result of their observations may be found in the Philoso-

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1780 phical Transactions. After his departure from Otaheite, Captain Cook discovered and visited the Society Islands and Oheteroa, and thence proceeded to the south till he arrived in the latitude of 40 degrees, 22 minutes; longitude 147 degrees, 29 minutes, W.; and afterwards made an accurate survey of New Zealand. In November, he discovered a chain of islands, which he called Barrier Islands. He afterwards proceeded to New Holland, and from thence to New Guinea; and in September, 1770, arrived at the island of Savu, from whence he proceeded to Batavia, and from thence round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived on the 12th of June, 1771.

Soon after Captain Cook's return home in the Endeavour, it was resolved to equip two ships in order to make further discoveries in the southern hemisphere. Accordingly the Resolution and Adventure were appointed for that purpose, the first was commanded by Captain Cook, and the latter by Captain Tobias Furneaux. They sailed from Plymouth Sound on the 13th of July, 1772, and, on the 29th of the same month, arrived at the island of Madeira. From thence they proceeded to the Cape of Good Hope; and in February, 1773, arrived at New Zealand, having sought in vain for a southern continent. In that month the Resolution and Adventure separated, in consequence of a thick fog, but joined company again in Queen Charlotte's Sound, on the 18th of May following. In August they arrived at Otaheite; and in September they discovered Hervey's Island. On the 2d of October they came to Middleburgh, one of the Friendly Isles, and about the close of that month, the two ships were again separated and did not join company any more. Captain Cook, however, proceeded in the Resolution, in order to make discoveries in the southern polar regions, but was stopped in his progress by the ice, in the latitude of 71 degrees, 10 minutes south; longitude 106 degrees, 54 minutes west. He then proceeded to Easter Island, where he arrived in March, 1774, where he did also in the same month at the Marquesas Islands. He afterwards discovered four Islands, which he named Palliser's Islands, and again steered for Otaheite, where he arrived on the 22d of April, and visited the neighbouring isles. In August he came to the New Hebrides, some of which were first discovered by him: after leaving these islands, he steered to the southward for a few days and discovered New Caledonia. Having surveyed the south west coast of this island, Captain Cook steered again for New Zealand, in order to refresh his crew, &c. and put his ship in a condition to encounter the dangers attending the navigation in the high southern latitudes. Directing his course to the south east, after leaving New Zealand, till he arrived in the latitude of 55 degrees, 6 minutes south; longitude 138 degrees, 56 minutes west, without meeting with any continent, Captain Cook gave up all hopes of discovering any in this ocean; and, therefore, came to a resolution to steer directly for the west entrance of the Straits of Magellan, with a view of coasting and surveying the outermost or south side of Terra del Fuego. Keeping, accordingly, in about the latitude of 53 or 55, and steering nearly east, he arrived off the western mouth of the Straits of Magellan, without meeting with any thing remarkable in his new course. In January, 1775, he discovered a large and dreary island, to which he gave the name of South Georgia. He afterwards discovered various capes and elevated snow-clad coasts, to the most southern part of which he gave the name of the Southern Thule, as being the nearest land to that Pole which had been yet discovered. In February, he discovered Sandwich Land and several islands covered with snow. He then proceeded round the Cape of Good Hope to England, where he arrived on the 30th of July, 1775. Captain Furneaux had returned to England in the Adventure a year before. As to Captain Cook, in the course of his voyage in the Resolution, he had made the circuit of the southern ocean.

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1780 ocean in an high latitude, and had traversed it in such a manner, as to leave not the least room for possibility of there being a southern continent, unless near the Pole and out of the reach of navigation. It deserves also to be remembered, in honour of that able commander Captain Cook, that, with a company of 118 men, he performed this voyage of three years and eighteen days, throughout all the climates from 52 degrees north, to 71 degrees south, with the loss of only one man by sickness; which extraordinary circumstance arose from the great humanity of that officer, and his uncommon care and attention to the health of his crew.

Another voyage of discovery, and the last, was performed by Captain Cook and Captain Clerke, in the *Resolution* and *Discovery*, during the years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, &c. in search of a north west passage between the continents of Asia and America. After they had arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, they proceeded from thence to New Holland. In their course they discovered two islands, which Captain Cook called Prince Edward's Isles. The largest, about 15 leagues in circuit, is in latitude 46, 53 south, longitude 37, 46. The other, about nine leagues in circuit, latitude 46, 40, and longitude 38, 8 east, both barren and almost covered with snow. From New Holland they went to New Zealand, and afterwards visited the Friendly and Society Isles. On the 7th of February, being nearly in latitude 44 degrees, 33 minutes north, and longitude 235 degrees, 36 minutes east, they saw part of the American continent bearing north east. They afterwards discovered King George's Sound, which is situated on the north west coast of America, and is extensive: that part of it where the ships under the command of Captain Cook anchored, is in latitude 49 degrees, 36 minutes north, and longitude 233 degrees, 28 minutes east. On the 12th of May, they discovered Sandwich Sound in latitude 59 degrees, 54 minutes north. They afterwards proceeded to the Island Unalafchka; and, after their departure from thence, still continued to trace the American coast, till they discovered the Strait which separates it from the continent of Asia. They passed the Strait, and arrived, on the 20th of August, 1778, in latitude 70 degrees, 54 minutes, longitude 194 degrees, 55 minutes, where they found themselves surrounded with ice, and the farther they proceeded to the eastward, they found the ice increase in resistance and firmness. They continued labouring among the ice till the 25th, when it was resolved, that as this passage was impracticable for any useful purpose of navigation, which was the great object of the voyage, it should be prosecuted no farther. The voyage, indeed, afforded sufficient evidence, that no practicable passage exists between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans towards the north, and it also ascertained the western boundaries of the great continent of America. On their return, this celebrated and able navigator Captain Cook was killed in an affray with the natives, on the Island of O'why'hee, one of the Sandwich Isles, on the 14th of February, 1779, leaving a name to be enrolled with Columbus and Vasquez de Gama, with Magellan, Dampier and Anson. After the death of Captain Cook, the command devolved on Captain Clerke, who died at sea on his return to the southward, on the 22d of August, 1779.

Perhaps, no science ever received greater additions from the labours of a single man, than geography has done from those of Captain Cook. In his first voyage to the South Seas, he discovered the Society Islands; determined the insularity of New Zealand; discovered the straits which separated the two islands and are called after his name, and made a complete survey of both. He afterwards explored the eastern coast of New Holland, hitherto unknown, an extent of 27 degrees of latitude, or upwards of 2,000 miles.

In his second expedition, he resolved the great problem of a southern continent, having traversed that hemisphere in such a manner, as not to leave a possibility of its existence, unless
near

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1780 near the Pole and out of the reach of navigation. During this voyage, he discovered New Caledonia, the largest island in the Southern Pacific Ocean, except New Zealand; the island of Georgia, and an unknown coast, which he named Sandwich Land, the Thule of the southern hemisphere; and, having visited the tropical seas, he settled the situation of the old, and made several new discoveries.

But the last voyage is distinguished, above all the rest, by the extent and importance of its discoveries. Besides several smaller islands in the Southern Pacific, he discovered to the north of the equinoctial line, the group called the Sandwich Islands, which, from their situation and productions, bid fairer for becoming an object of consequence in the system of European navigation, than any other discovery in the South Sea. He afterwards explored what had hitherto remained unknown of the western coast of America, from the latitude of 43 to 70 north, containing an extent of 3,500 miles; ascertained the proximity of the two great continents of Asia and America, passed the straits between them, and surveyed the coasts on each side to such an height of northern latitude, as to demonstrate the impracticability of a passage in that hemisphere, from the Atlantic into the Pacific Ocean, either by an eastern or a western course. In short, if we except the sea of Amur and the Japanese Archipelago, which still remain imperfectly known to Europeans, he has completed the hydrography of the habitable globe. But this is not all; it was reserved for Captain Cook, and it is by no means the least part of his renown, to prove to the world, by repeated trials, that voyages may be protracted to the unusual length of even three or four years, in unknown regions, and under every change and rigour of climate, not only without affecting the health, but even without diminishing the probability of life, in the smallest degree.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	India Stock.	South Sea Stock.	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	3 per ct. In. Ann.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	3 per ct. B. 1726	3½ p. ct. B. 1751	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. 1762	New Bills.	Long Ann.	India Bonds.	Ann. 1778	4 per cent. 1777	Om- niu. Pre
January,	{ 110 ¹ / ₄ 113	{ 141 ¹ / ₂ 141 ³ / ₄	{ 71 ¹ / ₂ —	{ 60 ¹ / ₄ 61	{ 60 ⁷ / ₈ —	{ 57 ¹ / ₈ 58 ¹ / ₂	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 61 ¹ / ₂	{ 60 ¹ / ₂ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ 60 ¹ / ₂ —	{ 61 ⁷ / ₈ —	{ 61 ³ / ₄ —	{ 61 ¹ / ₄ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ 11 ³ / ₈ 11	{ 18 ¹ / ₈ 17 ¹ / ₈	{ 1 7	{ 11 ¹ / ₄ 11 ¹ / ₈	{ 78 ³ / ₄ 78 ⁷ / ₈	—
February,	{ — 114 ³ / ₄	{ — 159 ¹ / ₄	{ — 69 ³ / ₄	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 61 ¹ / ₄	{ 59 ³ / ₄ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ — 59 ¹ / ₄	{ 62 61 ¹ / ₂	{ 60 61	{ — 60	{ 59 ³ / ₈ 60	{ 62 ¹ / ₈ 60 ¹ / ₄	{ 62 ¹ / ₄ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ 11 ⁷ / ₈ 11 ¹ / ₂	{ 17 ³ / ₈ —	{ — 0 16	{ — 11 ¹ / ₄	{ 79 ¹ / ₂ 80	—
March,	{ — 114 ¹ / ₂	{ — 154 ³ / ₄	{ — 60 ¹ / ₄	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 60 ⁵ / ₈	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 59 ³ / ₈	{ 59 ¹ / ₈ 58	{ 62 61 ⁵ / ₈	{ 59 ⁵ / ₈ 61 ³ / ₈	{ — —	{ 59 ¹ / ₂ 59	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 60	{ 61 ³ / ₄ 62 ¹ / ₈	{ 11 ⁷ / ₈ 10 ³ / ₈	{ 17 ¹ / ₄ 16 ¹ / ₂	{ 0 7 0 16	{ 12 ¹ / ₈ 12 ¹ / ₄	{ — —	{ 4 ¹ / ₄ 7 ⁵ / ₈
April,	{ 112 ³ / ₄ 112	{ — —	{ — —	{ — 59 ¹ / ₂	{ 59 ³ / ₄ —	{ — —	{ — 61	{ 60 ⁵ / ₈ —	{ — —	{ 59 ³ / ₈ —	{ 60 ⁵ / ₈ —	{ — —	{ 11 ¹ / ₂ 11 ³ / ₈	{ 16 16	{ 1 9 —	{ — —	{ 73 ³ / ₄ 73 ¹ / ₄	{ 8 ¹ / ₄ 7
May,	{ 112 ³ / ₄ 111 ³ / ₄	{ 156 ¹ / ₂ 151	{ — —	{ 58 ¹ / ₈ 58 ¹ / ₄	{ 58 ¹ / ₈ 59 ³ / ₄	{ — —	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ 59 ³ / ₄	{ 60 ¹ / ₂ 61 ¹ / ₈	{ — —	{ — —	{ 60 ¹ / ₄ 61	{ 59 ¹ / ₈ 59 ⁷ / ₈	{ 11 ³ / ₈ 10	{ — 16 ⁷ / ₈	{ 1 3 1 7	{ — 12 ⁵ / ₈	{ — —	{ 7 ¹ / ₂ 7 ¹ / ₄
June,	{ 114 ¹ / ₄ 110	{ 150 ³ / ₄ 148	{ — —	{ 58 ¹ / ₈ 59 ¹ / ₂	{ 59 ¹ / ₂ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ — 57 ⁵ / ₈	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ 60 ⁵ / ₈	{ 61 ³ / ₈ 60 ¹ / ₄	{ — —	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ —	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ 61	{ 59 60 ⁵ / ₈	{ 11 11 ¹ / ₂	{ 15 17	{ 1 1 1 7	{ 12 ³ / ₄ 12 ³ / ₈	{ 73 ³ / ₄ 74 ³ / ₈	{ 7 8
July,	{ 113 ¹ / ₄ 116 ¹ / ₂	{ — 148 ¹ / ₂	{ — —	{ 60 ¹ / ₂ 61 ³ / ₈	{ — —	{ — 59 ¹ / ₈	{ 60 ¹ / ₄ 62 ¹ / ₄	{ 62 ¹ / ₈ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ — —	{ — —	{ — —	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 62 ¹ / ₂	{ — 11 ¹ / ₈	{ 17 ¹ / ₄ 16	{ — 1 16	{ — 12 ⁵ / ₈	{ 74 75 ³ / ₄	{ 8 ³ / ₄ 8
August,	{ — 114	{ 152 150 ¹ / ₄	{ — 71 ¹ / ₄	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 61 ¹ / ₄	{ 61 ¹ / ₄ 60	{ — —	{ 62 ⁵ / ₈ 61 ¹ / ₈	{ 62 ¹ / ₄ 61 ¹ / ₈	{ — 59 ³ / ₄	{ — —	{ 61 ¹ / ₈ 61 ³ / ₄	{ 62 ⁵ / ₈ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ — 11 ³ / ₈	{ 15 16 ⁷ / ₈	{ — 1 5	{ 12 ¹ / ₄ 12 ⁷ / ₈	{ 75 ¹ / ₄ 75 ⁵ / ₈	{ — 7
Septemb.	{ 114 ¹ / ₄ 115 ¹ / ₂	{ — —	{ — —	{ 60 ⁷ / ₈ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ 59 ¹ / ₈ 59 ⁷ / ₈	{ — —	{ 61 ¹ / ₈ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ 61 61 ⁵ / ₈	{ — —	{ 59 ³ / ₄ 59 ⁷ / ₈	{ 61 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ 61 ¹ / ₂ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ — 12	{ — 16	{ 1 3 0 10	{ — 12 ¹ / ₈	{ 75 ³ / ₄ 75	{ — —
October,	{ — 111 ¹ / ₄	{ 149 ¹ / ₄ 151	{ — —	{ 51 ³ / ₄ 58 ¹ / ₄	{ 59 ⁵ / ₈ 59	{ 56 56 ⁷ / ₈	{ — —	{ 60 ³ / ₄ 61 ⁷ / ₈	{ — —	{ 59 ⁵ / ₈ 58 ³ / ₄	{ — —	{ — 60 ³ / ₄	{ 11 ¹ / ₂ 10 ⁷ / ₈	{ — 16 ³ / ₄	{ — 0 7	{ 12 ³ / ₄ 12	{ — —	{ — —
Novemb.	{ 111 ¹ / ₂ 110 ³ / ₄	{ 149 ¹ / ₄ 153 ¹ / ₄	{ — —	{ — 51 ³ / ₄	{ — 59 ⁵ / ₈	{ — 56	{ 61 ³ / ₈ 58	{ 60 ⁷ / ₈ 61 ⁵ / ₈	{ — —	{ — 59 ⁵ / ₈	{ — —	{ 59 ¹ / ₂ 58	{ — 11 ¹ / ₈	{ — 16	{ 0 5 0 15	{ — 12 ¹ / ₄	{ 72 ⁵ / ₈ 72	{ — —
Decemb.	{ 111 ¹ / ₂ 109 ¹ / ₂	{ 153 ¹ / ₂ 152 ¹ / ₄	{ — —	{ 58 ³ / ₄ 57 ¹ / ₂	{ 58 ¹ / ₄ 59	{ 56 ³ / ₄ 58 ¹ / ₂	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ 58 ³ / ₈	{ 62 ¹ / ₂ 60 ¹ / ₂	{ — —	{ 58 ¹ / ₂ 58	{ — —	{ 59 ¹ / ₄ 57 ³ / ₄	{ 11 ¹ / ₂ 11	{ 16 ⁵ / ₈ 16	{ 0 9 1 12	{ 12 ⁵ / ₈ 12 ¹ / ₂	{ 73 ¹ / ₂ 71 ⁵ / ₈	{ — —

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1780

The following is an exact account of the annual supply of sugar which has been refined or consumed raw, in England, for the last fifty years, distinguishing each year.

Years.	Cwt.		Years.	Cwt.		Years.	Cwt.
1731,	722,445	—	1748,	866,141	—	1765,	1,074,467
1732,	700,940	—	1749,	805,313	—	1766,	1,372,480
1733,	899,510	—	1750,	807,471	—	1767,	1,313,347
1734,	650,747	—	1751,	782,167	—	1768,	1,382,929
1735,	833,740	—	1752,	789,389	—	1769,	1,282,935
1736,	819,022	—	1753,	958,371	—	1770,	1,577,171
1737,	510,121	—	1754,	816,304	—	1771,	1,254,926
1738,	814,815	—	1755,	1,072,305	—	1772,	1,569,826
1739,	887,924	—	1756,	832,994	—	1773,	1,571,569
1740,	639,803	—	1757,	1,138,423	—	1774,	1,777,414
1741,	817,674	—	1758,	914,707	—	1775,	1,640,698
1742,	681,179	—	1759,	1,030,066	—	1776,	1,478,140
1743,	744,008	—	1760,	1,202,614	—	1777,	1,207,097
1744,	666,213	—	1761,	1,128,013	—	1778,	1,324,140
1745,	472,052	—	1762,	1,120,821	—	1779,	1,378,337
1746,	642,523	—	1763,	1,350,456	—	1780,	1,221,795
1747,	556,523	—	1764,	1,246,890	—		

An account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1780.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	63,240	7,067
Wheat Flour, —	136,939	932
Rye, —	6,305	—
Barley, —	32,956	2,407
Malt, —	135,077	—
Oats, —	8,904	8,726
Oatmeal, —	916	449
Beans, —	12,554	2,357
Peas, —	3,517	3,131
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat, —	773	—
Wheat Flour, —	15,101	—
Barley and Bear, —	18,706	—
Malt, —	2,415	—
Oats, —	3,330	—
Oatmeal, —	4,696	—
Peas and Beans, —	1,380	—

cwt. qrs. lb.

Biscuit, — 12,613 1 23

IMPORTED.

1780.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	1,662
Wheat Flour, —	1,378
Barley, —	352
Oats, —	189,964
Oatmeal, —	612
Beans, —	7,406
Peas, —	17,719
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat Flour, —	873
Oats, —	4,667

cwt. qrs. lb.

Biscuit, — 284 0 17

The bounties and drawbacks on corn exported from England, amounted to 70,513l. 10s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The amount of the bounties paid on grain exported from Scotland, was 7,232l. 3s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 1,067l. 11d.; and in Scotland, to 60l. 11s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The

A. D

1780 The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, this year, were: wheat, 4s. 5½d.; rye, 2s. 9d¼.; barley, 2s. 1½d.; oats, 1s. 7¼d.; beans, 2s. 9¼d.

An account of coals imported into the port of London for ten years, ending at Christmas 1779.

Years.	Chaldrons.	Years.	Chaldrons.
1770 —	615,330	1775 —	672,785
1771 —	694,003	1776 —	700,207
1772 —	725,908	1777 —	694,437
1773 —	624,781	1778 —	647,361
1774 —	623,727	1779 —	587,895

Of salted provisions, there were exported from England alone, during the course of this year, as follows:

Irish beef,	—	—	9,844 Barrels.
Irish pork,	—	—	3,471 Ditto.
English beef and pork,	—	—	4,480 Ditto.
English bacon,	—	—	3,369 Flitches.
English tripe,	—	—	1,582 Kegs.

Of pickled fish, there were exported from England alone,—

Red herrings,	—	—	1,816 Barrels.
White ditto,	—	—	7,281 Ditto.
Salmon,	—	—	109 Ditto.
Pilchards,	—	—	1,188 Hogheads.

Of butter, cheese, and beer, there were exported from England only,—

Irish butter,	—	—	9,844 Hundred-weight.
English ditto,	—	—	274 Firkins.
English cheese,	—	—	3,660 Hundred-weight.
Beer,	—	—	2,042 Tuns.

Of wheat-flour, oat-meal, bread, barley, peas, beans, &c. there were exported to the British West Indies, from England,—

Wheat-flour,	—	—	35,907 Quarters.
Oat-meal,	—	—	758 Ditto.
Bread,	—	—	32,587 Hundred-weight.
Barley,	—	—	256 Quarters.
Peas,	—	—	1,116 Ditto.
Beans,	—	—	12,291 Ditto.
Oats,	—	—	8,006 Ditto.
Wheat,	—	—	1,146 Ditto.
Rye,	—	—	1,116 Ditto.

In this year, 130 bounty vessels were at the fishery in Lough Swilly, which is the principal herring fishery in Ireland: they expended, in the cure of fish, 1,708 tons of salt; which salt cured in bulk, (allowing 30 maize, or 15,000 fish, to one ton of salt) 51,240 maize. Seventy-one vessels also from Liverpool and the Isle of Man, purchased cargoes in Lough Swilly for their red-herring houses.

A. D.

1780

The number of ships which were employed from England in the whale-fishery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland seas, in the course of this year, amounted to 52 :—The bounty at 30s. per ton.

The number of ships from Holland in the same trade, amounted, during the same period, to eighty-two.

Of woollen cloths, there were imported into Ireland from Great Britain in this year,

Old drapery,	—	—	64,346 Yards.
New drapery,	—	—	159,428 Ditto.

Total yards,	223,774
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The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to Spain and Portugal, in the year ending the 25th of March, 1780, amounted to 157,396 yards, plain and coloured.

The first export entry of woollen from Ireland, at the custom-house, Dublin, since the restrictions on the trade of that kingdom were taken off, was made by William Worthington, Esq. of 1300 yards of serge, for Lisbon.

✍ We have here annexed a CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT of COMMERCE in this ISLAND, from the Restoration to the year 1780 inclusive; which exhibits a clearer view of the weakness of its commencement, the struggles of its progress, and the greatness of its present maturity, than has yet been done. For this account, as well as for much useful instruction, we are indebted to the excellent publications of Mr. Chalmers.

In the first column of this table may be seen the various epochs, beginning with the Restoration, whence certainty may be said to commence, and ending with the year 1780. The second column gives the tonnage of the shipping that successively sailed from England, distinguishing the English from the foreign, in order to find, in the amount of each, the salutary effects of the act of navigation. The third column contains the value of the merchandize sent out, that the extent of the cargoes may be compared with the quantity of tonnage which carried them : and though the Scotch tonnage could not be adjoined, the value of the Scotch exports is added, because every one finds a gratification in extending his views. The fourth column exhibits the result of our exports and imports compared, which forms what has been denominated the balance of trade. The fifth column states the nett customs, as far as they could be ascertained, which our foreign commerce has yielded at different periods; because, while the detail gratifies curiosity, it furnishes no despicable proof of the prosperity or decline of our traffic. And the last column contains, what may be regarded as the result of the whole, the sums which have been coined in England during every reign; since “the mint,” as Sir Robert Cotton expresses it, “is the pulse of the commonwealth.”

On the 26th of December died, in the 75th year of his age, Thomas Hope, Esq. well known, in the trading world, as one of the first commercial characters any age has produced. He was descended from the elder branch of the family of Hope in Scotland, and by an unremitting exertion of great natural talents, and the practice of unvarying integrity, he raised the credit and affluence of the house at Amsterdam, which continues to bear his name, to such an height as perhaps was never attained by a house of trade in any country.

The following bills, relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent in the course of this year :—

A bill for the better supplying of his Majesty's navy with mariners, and seamen to serve on board transport ships, &c.

To

A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF THE RESTORATION to the Year 1780, inclusive.

Epochs.		Trade.		Nett Customs English.	Money coined.	
		To	Total.			
The Restoration,	{ 1663 1669 }	—	—	£. 390,000	By Charles II. — By James II. —	£. 7,524,105 2,737,637
The Revolution,	1668	—	—	551,141	By William III. —	£. 10,261,742
Peace of Ryswick,	1697	—	£. 43,320	694,892		£. 10,511,963
Last years of Wil- liam III.	{ 1700 01 02 }	—	1,386,832	1,474,861		
Wars of Anne,	{ 1709 1712 }	—	2,116,451	1,273,587	By Anne, —	£. 2,691,626
First of George I.	{ 1713 14 15 }	—	3,014,175	—	By George I. —	£. 8,725,921
First of George II.	{ 1726 27 28 }	—	1,904,151	1,588,496		
Peaceful years,	{ 1736 37 38 }	—	3,514,768	—		
War of - - -	{ 1739 40 41 }	—	4,642,502	—		
Peaceful years,	{ 1749 50 51 }	—	2,455,313	—		
War of - - -	{ 1755 56 57 }	—	6,521,964	—	By George II. { Gold, Silver,	£. 11,662,216 304,360
First of George III.	1760	—	4,046,465	1,855,334		£. 11,966,576
	61	—	5,981,682	2,076,735		
	62	—	7,239,133			
	63	—	5,553,098			
	64	—	4,682,691	2,503,353		
	65	—	6,505,671			
	66	—	3,919,230			
	67	—	2,731,904	2,412,993		
	68	—	1,992,848			
	69	—	3,504,823			
	70	—	1,867,199	By George III. { Gold, before the 31st of Dec. 1780. { Silver,	£. 30,457,805	
	71	—	2,564,272		7,126	
	72	—	4,810,156		£. 30,464,931	
	73	—	3,211,453			
	74	—	3,852,788			
	75	—	3,058,544			
	76	—	2,275,003			
	77	—	3,242,716			
	78	—	1,508,385			
	79	—	1,379,653			
	1780	—	2,154,634			
		—	1,787,809			

A. D.

1780

To repeal so much of an act made in the 19th year of Henry VII. or of any other acts which prohibit the exportation of coin out of this realm into Ireland; and so much of certain acts which prohibit the importation of foreign hops into Ireland, and which take off the drawback upon hops exported from Great Britain to Ireland; and to allow the importation into, and exportation from Ireland, of such goods as may be imported into, and exported from Great Britain, by the merchants of England trading to the Levant seas.

To continue several laws relating to the better securing the lawful trade of his Majesty's subjects to and from the East Indies, and for the more effectual preventing all his Majesty's subjects trading thither under foreign commissions, &c.

For laying additional duties upon wines and vinegar imported into this kingdom.

To protect goods, &c. of the growth of the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, on board neutral vessels, bound to neutral ports, during the present hostilities.

For allowing a bounty on the exportation of British corn and grain, in ships of any kingdom in amity with his Majesty.

For laying several additional duties on certain goods imported into the Isle of Man, and for the better regulating the trade, and securing the revenues of the said island.

For continuing to the East India Company the possession of the territorial acquisitions and revenues in the East Indies; and also for continuing certain regulations, for the better management of the affairs of that company.

For appointing and enabling commissioners to examine the public accounts of the kingdom

To prevent the carrying copper in sheets coast-ways, &c.

To extend and encourage the Greenland fishery.

For regulating the drawbacks on the duty on coffee, &c.

And for granting a reward to persons discovering the longitude.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 85,000 seamen, including 18,779 marines, ordnance, &c.	4,420,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	85,381	7	6
Towards building and repairing ships of war,	697,903	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	1,500,000	0	0
For 35,005 land-forces, including 4,213 invalids, &c.	946,176	3	5
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	44,875	8	3
For maintaining forces and garrisons out of the kingdom,	1,418,059	1	2
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar and Minorca,	56,228	11	11½
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy,	367,892	19	4
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau and subsidy,	35,510	19	4
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and subsidy,	17,529	11	9
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	94,173	12	4½
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anspach, &c.	39,718	18	1½
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbst, with the subsidy, &c.	16,661	6	4½
For provisions for the foreign troops serving in America,	48,801	10	6
For artillery for the foreign troops,	27,741	10	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	653,926	2	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	96,183	4	2

S f 2

Carried forward,

10,566,763 6 3

A. D.
1780

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,566,763	6	3
For additional militia companies, &c. to ditto for the year 1778,	8,943	13	8
For the new levies ordered to be raised for this year, —	258,206	18	0
For the charge of Lieutenant Colonel Fullarton's corps for 305 days,	8,623	17	6
For ditto of Lieutenant Colonel Holroyd's corps of light dragoons for 366 days, — — — — —	3,179	12	6
For ditto of Major General Rainsford's regiment of foot for 305 days,	12,929	9	2
For ditto of Lieutenant Colonel Humberston's corps for 305 days,	8,623	17	6
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c. —	87,718	0	0
For additional companies, &c. to the militia of South Britain, for 1780,	11,712	9	6
To make good the deficiency on the pay of additional companies, &c. to the militia of South Britain, for 1779. — —	468	15	8
For the charge of the new levies, from their respective establishments, to the 24th of December, 1779, — — —	30,296	16	8
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	82,905	2	0
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c. — —	608	6	6
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	2,418,805	18	11½
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	458,136	9	11
For services performed by ditto for ditto, not provided for in 1779,	591,466	0	11
To Dr. William Smith, for attendance on the sick and deceased prisoners in the gaols of Middlesex, Westminster, and Southwark, for near four years, and for medicines for their use, &c. —	1,200	0	0
To the Levant Company, — — —	10,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	6,997	4	3
To the British Museum, — — —	3,500	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	15,700	0	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts on the Thames,	14,348	2	9
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c. —	57,910	12	0
On account of general surveys in North America, —	1,832	5	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerset House, —	25,000	0	0
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John, —	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, — — — — —	2,866	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — — — —	4,796	0	0
Ditto of East Florida, — — — — —	3,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, — — — — —	3,900	0	0
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	13,000	0	0
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills, —	1,500,000	0	0
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills, —	1,000,000	0	0
For ditto, — — — — —	1,900,000	0	0
For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1779, —	490,000	0	0
Carried over,	19,607,538	18	8½

A. D.
1780

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	19,607,538	18	8½
To replace to the sinking fund the like sum paid out of the same, to make good the deficiency of the fund for paying certain annuities, &c.	37,372	18	9½
For ditto, — — — — —	332,856	4	5½
For ditto, — — — — —	167,036	14	1½
To make good the deficiency of the grants for the service of the year 1779,	300,687	0	7
To make good certain other deficiencies in the grants of ditto,	301,004	16	1½
Deficiency in the land-tax, — — — — —	250,000	0	0
Ditto in the malt-tax, — — — — —	200,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	21,196,496	12	9½

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, — — — — —	705,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s. — — — — —	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery, — — — — —	12,480,000	0	0
By certain surplusses of the sinking fund, — — — — —	650,457	18	0
By monies remaining in the Exchequer of the deduction of sixpence in the pound out of all monies paid upon salaries, pensions, &c. from the crown,	25,560	0	0
By other monies remaining in the Exchequer, — — — — —	3,761	13	4½
By Exchequer bills, — — — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto, — — — — —	1,900,000	0	0
By the sinking fund, — — — — —	1,849,542	1	11¾
By several sums arising from stoppages for provisions for the detachment of artillery serving in North America, &c. — — — — —	14,405	18	6
By savings out of the grant for the charge of new levies, &c.	20,717	7	4
By other savings, &c. — — — — —	123,998	7	4
By certain sums in the hands of the paymaster-general, — — — — —	48,300	0	0
By ditto remaining in the Exchequer, — — — — —	10,506	5	2½
By a certain sum which had been granted for building a lazaret,	5,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means, — — — — —	21,382,249	11	8¾
Supplies granted, — — — — —	21,196,496	12	9½

Excess of provisions, — — — — — 185,752 18 11¼

☞ A vote of credit of one million was also granted this session, and is charged on the next aids.

	£.	s.	d.
The additional public debt funded and provided for this year, amounted to twelve millions; the interest of which, at 4 per cent. per annum, is	480,000	0	0
The annuity for 80 years, at 1l. 16s. 3d. per cent. per annum, is	216,150	0	0

In all, per annum, 696,150 0 0

This

A. D.
1780

This sum was proposed to be raised in the following manner:—

	£.	s.	d.
Additional duty on malt, of 6d. per bushel,	—	—	—
Ditto on low wines, of 1d. per gallon,	—	—	—
Ditto on spirits, of 3d. per do.	—	—	—
Ditto on brandy, of 1s. per do.	—	—	—
Ditto on rum, of 1s. per do.	—	—	—
Ditto on foreign wines, of 4l. per tun on Portugal wines, and of 8l. per tun on French wines,	—	—	—
A duty on coals exported, of 4s. per Newcastle chaldron,	—	—	—
Additional duty of 5l. per cent. on the above duties,	—	—	—
Additional duty of 1s. 10d. per bushel on salt,	—	—	—
Ditto on advertisements, of 6d. each,	—	—	—
A stamp duty on the receipt for any legacy, or for any share of a personal estate divided under the statute of distributions, or the custom of any province or place, of 2s. 6d. if the value shall not exceed 20l.; and of 5s. if above 20l. and not amounting to 100l.; and of 20s. if 100l. or upwards,	—	—	—
On dealers in coffee, tea, and chocolate, for a licence, 5s. annually,	—	—	—
In all,	—	—	—
Interest of public debt funded, &c.	—	—	—
Excess of new taxes,	—	—	—

An account of the christenings and burials within [the bills of mortality in London, from December 14, 1779, to December 12, 1780.

Christened, males	8,581	Buried, males	10,206
— females	8,053	— females	10,311
	<u>16,634</u>		<u>20,517</u>

1781 In the course of the preceding year, the war between Great Britain and America had been carried on with considerable success on the part of the former: the utmost ardour had been displayed by the royal troops; Charlestown, and the whole province of South Carolina, had been subdued, and other very signal advantages obtained by the British arms. But notwithstanding these favourable circumstances, no prospect appeared of any speedy termination of the war. The authority of Great Britain continued to be acknowledged in those places alone of which the King's troops were in possession, and for no longer a period than during their continuance in them: indeed, throughout the American continent, the most determined aversion was in general manifested to the government of the mother country. The dangers of the latter were now also increased by the war with Holland, and the rupture with that republic naturally augmented the difficulties, and lessened the extent of the national trade. The alliance between France and the revolted colonies, had not indeed been so beneficial to the latter as might have been expected; and the French ministry seemed to possess a greater solicitude to increase their possessions in the West Indies, than to afford any substantial assistance to their American

A. D.

1781

American allies. In Europe, no effects had yet been produced in any degree proportionable to the vast armaments that had issued forth from the ports of France and of Spain; and by which, though great alarm had been excited, little or nothing had been performed.

The new Parliament met on the 31st of October in the last year, and, on the day following, his Majesty addressed both Houses in a speech from the throne; in which he informed them, that it was with more than ordinary satisfaction, he met them in Parliament, at a time, when the late elections might afford him an opportunity of receiving the most certain information of the disposition and wishes of his people, to which he was always inclined to pay the utmost attention and regard. His Majesty further observed, that by the force which the last Parliament had put in his hands, &c. he had been able to withstand the formidable attempts of his enemies, and to frustrate the great expectations they had formed; and he trusted, that the signal successes which had attended the progress of his arms in the provinces of Georgia and Carolina would have important consequences, and tend towards bringing the war to an happy conclusion. It was his most earnest desire to see this great end accomplished; but he was confident, that they would agree with him in opinion, that safe and honourable terms of peace could be secured only by such powerful and respectable preparations, as should convince their enemies, that they would not submit to receive the law from any powers whatever; and that they were united in a firm resolution to decline no difficulty or hazard, in the defence of their country, and for the preservation of their essential interests. His Majesty further declared, that he saw and felt, with great anxiety and concern, that the various services of the war must, unavoidably, be attended with great and heavy expences; but he desired them to grant him such supplies only, as their own security and lasting welfare, and the exigency of affairs should be found to require. The motion for an address of thanks, produced an animated discussion of the further progress of the American war. A bill to continue the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, moved to be brought in by Sir Grey Cooper, was opposed with much spirited but unsuccessful animadversion,—the navy estimates occasioned some violence of debate,—even the thanks of the House to Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis, for the services rendered to their country in the reduction of Charlestown and the victory of Camden, were not given without much severe observation: however, the land and malt taxes were passed as matters of course;—the succeeding Parliamentary transactions, previous to the recess, passed off without any particular or lengthened debates; and, on the sixth of December, the House of Commons adjourned to the 23d of January in the present year.

The intrigues of France had never been so successful against Great Britain as in the present war. She had contrived to kindle an unextinguishable flame in the North American colonies;—she had persuaded Spain, against the evident interest of that monarchy, to unite with her in asserting their independence;—she had involved the Seven United Provinces in the quarrel with their antient and firm ally;—nay, she had drawn all Europe, as it were, into a confederacy for the destruction of the naval power of this country, and had not only deprived it of all its allies, but seems to have possessed the art of directing the public wishes of mankind to the downfall of the British empire.

In the midst of this storm, Britain appeared, however, to brave its enemies, not only by the greatness of her spirit with which she encountered them, but by those wonderful resources which as yet manifested no sign of being exhausted. In the beginning of this year, the maritime strength of all Europe was drawn out against her; but the list of her fleets and armies afforded them no reason to hope that her power was on the decline. Her internal defence was
provided

A. D.

1781 provided for in such a manner, as precluded all expectations of making the least impression upon this island; she had numerous forces in the East and West Indies, and was making the most vigorous efforts in America. Her navy, at this time, was on a most formidable establishment; it consisted of no less than 430 vessels, in the best possible condition, and manned with the best seamen in Europe. The fleets of France, Spain and Holland, were but in a small degree superior to those of Great Britain in numbers, and very far inferior to them in construction and equipment. The sailors, those of Holland excepted, were chiefly composed of landsmen unaccustomed and very averse to that element on which they served. France, with all its exertions, did not reckon more than 264 vessels of all rates; Spain could not boast of more than 124, and Holland counted but 60. The residue of the European marine in actual commission, among those powers which formed the armed neutrality, amounted to no more than 80 ships of all sizes. Of those, 29 belonged to Russia, 30 to Sweden, and 25 to Denmark. Such were the estimates of the naval force of the maritime powers of Europe, about the commencement of this year 1781.

France had, it is true, obtained some advantage in the West Indies, but notwithstanding the parade with which her fleet, in conjunction with that of Spain, had appeared on the British coast, nothing of the least consequence had been hitherto effected. The only attempt she had ventured to make in the Channel, was on the Island of Jersey, in the year 1779, and in that she had compleatly failed. Irritated, as we may suppose, at the disgrace of not having been able to possess herself of an island, which is situated in the vicinity, and was in sight of her own shore, she made another, and, as it proved, a fruitless attempt at the commencement of the present year.

On the 6th of January, upwards of 800 French troops, under the command of the Baron de Rullecourt, a man of undoubted courage, but of an impetuous disposition, made good their landing on that island. And, so totally neglectful were the militia guard of their duty, that the French not only effected their landing with the utmost privacy, but, to the utmost astonishment of the inhabitants, had taken possession of the market place of St. Helier, the principal town of the island, soon after the day began to dawn, without a single gun having been fired, or the least alarm given from any quarter; and, having seized on a body of men that guarded the town, together with the commanding officer and magistrates of the island, he drew up a capitulation, the terms of which were, that the island should be immediately surrendered to France, and the garrison be sent to England. With this proposition, he demanded an instant compliance, and declared, in case of a refusal, that he would set fire to the town, and put the inhabitants to the sword. Major Corbet, the lieutenant governor, and the magistrates represented to him, that, being in his power, no authority of theirs could be valid, and that the troops would of course refuse obedience to them. But the French commander persisted in his requisition and menaces, the capitulation was signed in order to prevent him carrying them into execution. Having gained this point, Baron Rullecourt advanced to Elizabeth Castle, near the town, which he summoned to surrender; but the garrison returned him a peremptory refusal, and made so vigorous a discharge of their artillery upon his troops, as obliged him to retire into the town. In the mean time, the British troops, under the command of Major Pierson, who was next in seniority to the lieutenant governor, together with the militia of the island, assembled upon the heights near the town; when the French General sent a requisition to them to conform to the capitulation; but received for answer, that if the French did not lay down their arms, and surrender themselves prisoners within twenty minutes, he would

attack

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1781 attack them. Accordingly, Major Pierſon, having made a very able diſpoſition of his ſmall body of forces, they attacked the enemy with ſuch vigour and impetuofity, that in leſs than half an hour from the commencement of the action, the French General being mortally wounded, the officer next in command deſired Major Corbet to reſume the government and to accept their ſubmiſſion as priſoners of war. But the brilliance of this ſucceſs, was diminifhed by the death of that excellent officer Major Pierſon, who unhappily fell by one of the laſt diſcharges from the French troops. He was but in the twenty-fifth year of his age, and had diſplayed ſuch military abilities on this occaſion, as juſtified the higheſt expectations of the profeſſional character he would have attained, had he been ſo fortunate as to ſurvive. He was ſincerely lamented, not only by the ſoldiery and inhabitants of Jerſey, but by the whole nation.

Hoſtilities were commenced againſt the Dutch by a detention of their ſhipping in the different parts of England, and by the capture of two men of war of 54 guns. On the granting of letters of marque and reprisals againſt them, a multitude of privateers was added to thoſe already in commiſſion, and a very great number of the Dutch merchantmen were brought into the Britiſh ports. Inſtructions were alſo diſpatched at the ſame time to the commanders of the Britiſh forces in the Weſt Indies, to proceed to immediate hoſtilities, againſt the Dutch ſettlements in thoſe parts.

Admiral Rodney was returned from his expedition to North America, and was preparing to attack ſuch of the French iſlands as ſeemed to be the leaſt capable of defence, when he was apprized of the rupture with Holland, and directed to commence hoſtilities againſt its poſſeſſions in the Weſt Indies. The moſt important of theſe was the iſland of St. Euſtatius, commonly called Statia. This iſland, barren and contemptible in itſelf, had long been the ſeat of a very great and lucrative commerce, and might, indeed, be conſidered as the grand free port of the Weſt Indies and America, and as a general magazine to all nations. Its richeſt harveſts were, however, during the ſeaſons of warfare among its neighbours, in conſequence of its neutral ſtate and ſituation, with its unbounded as well as unreſtrained freedom of trade. At this time, therefore, it was, of courſe, open to the ſubjects of all the powers at war, and deriving immense profits from the commerce carried on in conſequence of ſuch a privilege. The Dutch, under whoſe mediation all trading buſineſs was tranſacted, reaped prodigious advantage from the innumerable commiſſions with which they were entrusted, and from the vaſt ſale of thoſe articles of merchandize, which they alone could diſpoſe of to the ſubjects of the belligerent powers in that part of the globe.

Such was the ſituation of this iſland, when Admiral Rodney, on the third of February in this year, appeared before it, with a naval and land force which it was in no condition to reſiſt. It ſurrendered, therefore, without any ſtipulations. The wealth found in this place, was ſo great as to excite the aſtoniſhment of the captors, notwithſtanding their previous intimate knowledge of its nature and circumſtances. The whole iſland appeared to be one enormous magazine; for not only the vaſt ſtorehouſes were crammed with merchandize of every kind, but even the beach was covered with hogſheads of ſugar and tobacco. The value of the commodities was eſtimated by a looſe, but ſuppoſed moderate calculation, as being conſiderably above three millions ſterling. But this was only a part of the prize; the capture of ſhipping was immense: upwards of 200 ſail of merchantmen were taken, many of which were very richly laden, beſides a ſhip of 60 guns, a frigate of 40, and five other veſſels of inferior force. The intelligence of this event was the more agreeably received in England, as the loſs, which

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was among the severest that Holland could have received, fell chiefly upon the city of Amsterdam. The French and Americans were also considerable sufferers, and not a few of the British merchants; who, trusting to the neutrality of the place, had consigned valuable cargoes to their correspondents there; all of which were seized by the British commanders as Dutch property.

The Dutch Governor, on surrendering the town, &c. had recommended it and the inhabitants to the mercy of the British commanders. But the latter thought themselves justified, by the partial and even zealous conduct of those inhabitants in favour of the enemies of Great Britain, in treating them with a degree of rigour not commonly exercised towards an enemy who has surrendered at discretion. All the property found upon the island, both public and private, was declared to be confiscated, and was treated according to the severest rules of confiscation. Sales for the disposal of it commenced on the 15th of March, and notice was given, in the Carribbean Gazette, that all persons who would come to the island in order to purchase, should have whatever they bought properly secured to them. The goods purchased at these sales were supposed to be sold at about one fourth of their value, and were permitted to be shipped off in English or neutral bottoms, for the purpose of conveying them to any of the English or neutral islands.

Besides the island of St. Eustatius, the neighbouring islands of St. Martin and Saba surrendered at discretion. Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan added, likewise, to their former conquests, the French island of St. Bartholomew, and the Dutch colonies of Demerary and Iffequibo on the Spanish main, but to these they thought proper to afford the more favourable conditions of leaving the inhabitants in possession of their property. The fact appears to be, that no suspicions lay against them of having acted a treacherous part to Great Britain, by doing every possible service to her enemies, which had been the conduct of the people of St. Eustatius; who, while they supplied the French and Americans with immense quantities of warlike stores, &c. refused, under various pretences, to supply the occasional demands made by ships belonging to Great Britain. A number of Dutch vessels in the river Demerary, were also taken by two sloops of his Britannic Majesty; and the Dutch settlement of Berbicia, a few leagues distant from Demerary, together with several vessels, was taken by a squadron of privateers, who associated for that purpose.

As this is a commercial question of considerable importance, we shall give those papers at large, which will afford the best elucidation of it.

To their Excellencies Sir George Brydges Rodney, Baronet, &c. &c. and the Honourable General John Vaughan, Commanders in Chief of his Majesty's Fleets and Armies in the West Indies, &c.

The Memorial and Remonstrance of the Merchants of St. Christopher for themselves, and as Agents and Factors for many of the most commercial Houses in Great Britain and Ireland.

“ Your Excellencies having refused the request of our former memorial, we have thought it necessary to intrude upon you with a second application, that we may not be wanting in all due respect to your Excellencies characters; that our proceedings may be conducted with that caution and deliberation which is consistent with the equity of our demands; and that you may be made acquainted with our determination, in case those demands continue to be refused.

“ We

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“ In regard to the European goods now in our stores, and in the hands of our factors at St. Eustatius, we entreat your Excellencies to determine their fate as soon as possible; and should there be a general confiscation, and the proceeds to remain in agents hands, or the goods detained from us, till his Majesty's pleasure is known; we beg leave to represent, that we consider ourselves as no ways obliged to rest satisfied with such sales or detention; but, on the contrary, will seek all lawful redress, in this country and in England, against your Excellencies, and all employed to take them out of our possession, or who prevent our removing or disposing of them in such a manner, that they may sell for their full value.

“ As it is not only necessary for the security of our rights, but also in conformity to your Excellencies desire, that we should produce inventories of all our effects at St. Eustatius, we doubt not but your Excellencies will readily furnish us with the means of procuring them; we have, therefore, to request, that, in order to enable us and our partners and factors at St. Eustatius to ascertain the amount of the goods already shipped off by authority of your Excellencies, and of what may be hereafter taken from us, you would be pleased to permit such an intercourse, personal and by correspondence between us and them, as may facilitate a measure so necessary to give the laws of our country their proper force.

“ And, as the inhabitants of the captured islands, in whose behalf we also claim, have a considerable property on board of Dutch vessels, now in St. Eustatius road, which, we are informed, are under your Excellencies orders for England, we think it highly proper, that we should here request your Excellencies to direct all papers, particularly the certificates relating to such property, to be transmitted to England by each vessel, and that the principal officers of each ship be sent home to prove the shipment and property of such goods, in compliance with his Majesty's instructions.

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“ We shall further use the freedom to represent to your Excellencies, one serious bad consequence that may arise to British subjects from the measures threatened by your Excellencies to be put in execution. It is impossible for many of us to be more effectually ruined by future events than by the present; but our more wealthy constituents, and the nation at large, may suffer from the example set by your Excellencies to other powers: if by the fate of war these islands should fall into the hands of an enraged enemy, there will be a pretext for them to retaliate, and confiscate private property; such steps will totally deprive us of the means of paying our generous creditors in England, and be the cause of numerous bankruptcies there. Thus there will be ruin inflicted on the very people in the mother country, who are, with unparalleled liberality, subscribing to support the war, and the principal pillars of the state will fall to the ground.

“ The conquerors of all civilized nations have ever had an eye to this; and both motives of humanity and policy preserved the property of individuals. One instance lately happened to the contrary;—Grenada having been taken by storm, without capitulation, was at the mercy of the conquerors:—though the Count D’Estaing did not seize the property of individuals, yet he issued edicts to prevent payment of debts due in Great Britain, and displaced agents of absentees, by appointing trustees to receive the produce of the estates. Those measures occasioned an universal clamour among the enlightened part of the French nation, who carried remonstrances to the throne of an absolute monarch, and Count D’Estaing’s conduct was severely reprobated, his edicts rescinded, and the inhabitants put upon the same footing with the French subjects in that island.

“ It is so far from our inclination to give any trouble to your Excellencies, that it is with reluctance we have trespassed upon your attention; but as we are asking for a right, and not soliciting a favour,—and as that right is of the greatest importance to us, we not only hope that we shall stand excused to your Excellencies, but that you will, upon further reflection, comply with our request.”

The above memorial, &c. was presented to Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan, by John Glanville, Esq. his Majesty’s Solicitor General.

The principles on which the British commanders in chief acted in the business of St. Eustatius, were too decided to be moved by memorials or remonstrances from partial sufferers. The answer of the Admiral to that which we have just recited, marks the spirit of his conduct, and his determination to continue it. “ After mentioning the impossibility of considering it with proper attention, from the more important avocations that pressed upon him, he proceeds to express his surprize, that gentlemen who call themselves merchants and subjects of Great Britain, should, when it was in their power to lodge their effects in the British islands to windward, where they would have been under the protection of the British laws and the British flag, send them to leeward, to the island of St. Eustatius, where, in the eye of common reason and common sense, they could only be lodged as a deposit to supply the necessity of their King’s and their country’s enemies.” He then concludes with the following strong, unargumentative, peremptory declaration.—“ The island of St. Eustatius was Dutch,—every thing in it was Dutch,—every thing was under the protection of the Dutch flag, and that as Dutch it shall be treated, is the firm resolution of a British Admiral, who has no view whatever, but to do the duty he owes to his King and country.”

But this was not all,—while the merchants of St. Christopher’s, &c. were endeavouring to direct the attention of the captors of St. Eustatius, to their interests, the West India planters

and

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1781 and merchants in London, were setting forth their grievances to the power, to whom those officers were accountable. The following petition was presented on the 16th of April to the throne.

To the KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The PETITION of the WEST INDIA PLANTERS and MERCHANTS.

" That your petitioners have very considerable property and debts due to them, in the several islands in the West Indies, subject to the crown of Great Britain, as also in the islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Vincent, which have, in the course of the present hostilities, fallen under the dominion of France.

" That they have always conceived it to be a maxim among civilized nations, established in humanity and sound policy, ' that war should be carried on with the least possible injury to ' private property, found in any countries or towns, which may be invaded or conquered : ' the happy effects of which wise principles your petitioners have hitherto experienced in the security of their estates and effects from rapine and plunder, which have been reciprocally discountenanced by the Governors in the West Indies, as ruinous to individuals, and productive of no decisive advantage to any of the sovereign States concerned.

" Your petitioners are, therefore, seriously alarmed at the general seizure made by the commanders of your Majesty's sea and land forces, of goods, merchandize and specie, found in the islands of St. Eustatius and St. Martin, on their surrendering, without resistance, and at discretion, to the said commanders ; humbly conceiving, that the inhabitants of places which submit to the will, and surrender themselves to the discretion of an invading enemy, immediately upon such submission, become the subjects of that sovereign or state, to whom the victorious army belongs ; and consequently, by their allegiance, are entitled to security in their persons and property ; it being as repugnant to policy as humanity, to permit one class of subjects to plunder another ; the trader having an equal claim with the soldier to the protection of government.

" Your petitioners humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty, that those Dutch islands did belong to a sovereign State, by whose authority and permission they were made free ports ; and that they have been recognized as such by Great Britain, and all the other maritime powers of Europe, who have possessions in the West Indies.

" That Great Britain, in particular, has never interdicted or prohibited, to her subjects, the trade of those Dutch islands, but has, on the contrary, permitted the exportation of great quantities of various articles of goods, of the growth, produce and manufacture of this country, which have been regularly and openly entered out, at the several ports in this kingdom, for the said Dutch islands.

" That an act was passed last session of Parliament, for removing any legal doubts arising out of the Navigation Act, respecting the importation of tobacco of the growth of the colonies in North America, which having escaped British capture, had been imported from the colonies in rebellion, into those Dutch islands, declaring and enacting, ' that such tobacco might be ' legally imported from those, or any other neutral islands, into any British island, and from ' thence into Great Britain : ' by which act, the trade to the said island of St. Eustatius and St. Martin, which had always been, in many respects, legal, became an object of public encouragement, by being extended beyond what the strict construction of law seemed formerly to authorize.

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“ That since the passing the said act, and even before, during the present rebellion, a great part of the tobacco, absolutely necessary for the consumption and revenue of Great Britain, has been imported through that channel, to the manifest benefit of the navigation of this kingdom; for if the market had not been supplied by those means, there would have been an indispensable necessity for admitting tobacco from Holland, after having been carried thither from those islands in Dutch vessels; and Great Britain would, consequently, have been deprived of the profit arising from the long navigation of that bulky commodity.

“ That since the commencement of the American rebellion, the said islands of St. Eustatius and St. Martin have been frequently of the most essential service to the British Leeward Islands, particularly in the years 1777 and 1778, when the islands of Antigua and St. Christopher would have suffered all the miseries of actual famine, had not they drawn from St. Eustatius those supplies which they formerly received from North America.

“ That since the capture of Grenada, the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Vincent, those islands have been principally supplied with the several necessaries for their consumption, and for the cultivation of their plantations, through the medium of St. Eustatius, and that many British subjects, having property in those captured islands, have been obliged to establish houses of trade in the said island of St. Eustatius, for the express purpose of supplying those islands, and have ordered various articles to be shipped for St. Eustatius from Great Britain, as well as from Holland.

“ That the great want of plantation stores and other necessaries, in those captured islands, has also obliged many of the planters to ship, from time to time, a great part of the produce of their plantations to St. Eustatius, for the purpose of purchasing such plantation stores and necessaries.

“ That many of your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, on the faith of Great Britain, having recognized the trade, have settled as general traders in those Dutch islands, and have considerable property in goods, merchandize and money, in the said islands; and that others of your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, as agents for the Dutch as well as British merchants in these islands, have shipped considerable quantities of goods and merchandize on account of the said merchants.

“ That those Dutch islands, particularly St. Eustatius, have, therefore, been, and ought to be, considered as free ports, open to all the world, where the subjects of all States in amity with Holland were equally welcome, where the goods imported by the hand of commerce were at open market, ready to be sold to the best bidder, without favour and affection, without any partial or political attachment or predilection to any of the powers at war, without regard to any other object than that of mercantile profit, which is the spring and soul of all commerce whatever; and that the value of the said islands to that sovereign power to which they belonged, as well as to your Majesty's subjects and other nations, consisted in their being universal open marts, and not in the inconsiderable production of their soil.

“ Your petitioners humbly beg leave to represent to your Majesty, that, as a very considerable part of the property found in those Dutch islands, must necessarily belong to many of your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects, from the causes above stated, so there are likewise others of your Majesty's subjects residing in Great Britain, and the British Leeward Islands, who are large creditors of the Dutch and British merchants in those Dutch islands, not only on account of goods and merchandize, openly and avowedly shipped by them, as the agents of
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1781 the said merchants, but also in respect of dealings and engagements antecedent to, and unconnected with the trade carried on by such their debtors in those islands.

“ With respect to the property found in the said islands, belonging to the subjects of the States of Holland, or any other of your Majesty’s enemies, your petitioners having already stated what they humbly conceive to be the humane and political practice of war, feel themselves impelled by a principle of gratitude, to present to your royal view the conduct of the commanders of the French King’s forces, and of the court of France, in the case of the conquest of the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines.

“ When the island of Grenada, after having made a zealous, but unsuccessful defence, against the enemy’s force, surrendered at discretion, there was no plunder allowed, except on the Hospital Hill, which was taken by storm, and where the small effects that were lodged, necessarily fell, *in furore belli*, to the first of the assailants who could lay their hands upon them. The goods and merchandize in the town of St. George, in that island, to a very large amount, not merely intended for the use and consumption of the island, but for the general market of the West Indies, remained untouched, and every species of property whatever was left inviolate, even the goods upon the quays and beach, in various parts of the island.

“ There were, indeed, certain ordinances issued by the French governor, on taking possession of the said island, by which the produce of all plantations belonging to absentees was to be sequestered until a peace; and the payment of all debts due to your Majesty’s subjects, residing in any part of your Majesty’s dominions, was prohibited, under pain of military execution. But on the application of the parties interested to the court of France, those ordinances were immediately revoked by his Most Christian Majesty; and all persons whatever, whether present or absent, were secured in the full possession of their estates and effects: his Most Christian Majesty having been pleased, at the same time, to express his disapprobation of those ordinances, ‘ as tending to injure civil contracts, which are founded on the law of nature, and which form the most sacred bond of society, being the principal source of that reciprocal communication and intercourse subsisting between the subjects of all nations; to which contracts, and to private property in general, the practice of war, among civilized states, has ever had the most tender regard.’

“ Your petitioners likewise, with pleasure reflect, that your Majesty, in the very beginning of your reign, gave a striking example of clemency upon the capture of Dominica; the inhabitants of which island were settled there against express treaties, unacknowledged by any sovereign; professing neutrality, yet exercising hostilities against your Majesty’s subjects; and when summoned to submit to your Majesty’s arms, not only refused to surrender, but, provoking an assault, were reduced sword in hand: yet, by your Majesty’s wisdom and generosity, the inhabitants of that island were preserved in the possession of all their property.

“ Your petitioners do not conceive that those defenceless islands were surprized and taken possession of by your Majesty’s arms for the sake of inglorious spoil, but merely with a view to great political objects, in conducting the present hostilities against the combined enemies of Great Britain, by depriving them, in future, of the convenience and advantage of those marts. They have ever considered Great Britain as priding herself in acts of generosity and humanity, not less than in brilliant achievements of valour in war; and they are confident that your Majesty will not permit the British name to be stained by a departure from that line of conduct, which has hitherto so peculiarly characterised this nation, and her sacred regard to the rights of mankind.

“ They

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“ They beg leave to repeat to your Majesty, that the confiscation of private property in those Dutch islands, would grievously affect many of your Majesty’s most faithful and loyal subjects, who have traded there under the sanction of our laws, or who are creditors of merchants in the said islands; and, at the same time, to state to your Majesty their apprehensions, that such a measure, so far as it would injure the property of the subjects of the enemy, must necessarily tend to encrease the calamities of war, by exciting desperate resistance,—by exasperating our foes against the trading inhabitants of those islands which may hereafter be obliged to submit to their arms,—and by establishing a predatory system, destructive and ruinous in its consequences to individuals, and of no solid benefit to the several states concerned.

“ Signed by order, and in the name and on the behalf of the West India planters and merchants,

“ WILLIAM CRICHTON,

“ Chairman of the general meeting on this special business.”

But the West India planters and merchants who considered themselves as sufferers by the general confiscation of St. Eustatius, did not content themselves with memorials and petitions, but had immediate recourse to the laws of their country; and various law-suits were commenced, in order to try whether the conduct of the captors of St. Eustatius would obtain the sanction of law. These circumstances occasioned a great coolness, which at length foreboded a settled dislike between the naval commander in chief and the British islands which were committed to his charge and protection: a circumstance which could not but be considered as extremely unfortunate in such a critical season of the war.

The business of St. Eustatius was not, however, confined to those who were more immediately concerned in it: the attention of Parliament was claimed on the occasion; and Mr. Burke moved, in the House of Commons, for an enquiry into the conduct observed in the late capture of the island of St. Eustatius, particularly with respect to the seizure and confiscation of private property, as well as to many outrages stated to have been committed there. But the absence of the commanders, who were so deeply concerned in the subject of enquiry, was thought a sufficient ground for postponing it till the ensuing session; and to that period we must refer our readers for any further information on this important subject.

In the month of October, 1780, several of the West India islands were afflicted with one of the most dreadful hurricanes that had ever been experienced in that part of the globe. The damage done by it to some of the British and French islands, as as well as to the shipping, was immense, and far exceeded any losses, from such a cause, that had ever been sustained by those colonies.

The British island which suffered most was that of Barbadoes: it underwent an almost total destruction. The islands of Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent, and St. Lucia, particularly the former, were also great sharers in this alarming visitation. The French islands of Martinico and Guadaloupe did not escape an equal portion of the general calamity: the principal towns in both were almost levelled with the earth; many thousand lives were lost from the irruption of the sea, the fall of buildings, &c.; and, among the vast quantity of shipping cast away, were two British ships of the line, and several frigates: several French ships of war also met with the same fate.

These hurricanes involved the inhabitants of some of the British islands in such extreme distress, that it was thought necessary to make application to Parliament for assistance and relief. Accordingly, on the 23d of January in this year, (which was the first day on which the House of Commons assembled after the Christmas recess) a petition was presented, by Lord North,

from

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1781 from the planters, merchants, and other persons interested in the island of Jamaica, in which it was stated, that the parishes of Westmoreland and Hanover, in that island, had been laid waste by the late hurricanes, earthquakes, and inundations; whereby most of the buildings in those parishes, together with the produce of the earth, were in a great measure destroyed; and that other districts in the island had received very considerable damage. It was added, that the losses of the several sufferers amounted to such an enormous sum, as to require the immediate aid and assistance of Parliament.

A petition was also presented by Mr. Estwick, agent for Barbadoes, from the planters, merchants, and others resident in England, and interested in the island of Barbadoes; in which it was stated, that the violence of the late hurricanes had extended over the whole island, affecting almost every individual, and reducing to distress the greatest part of the inhabitants. Of nearly 400 plantations, scarcely one had escaped the general calamity; most had sustained very considerable, and many almost irreparable damages: almost all the buildings, nearly one-half of the cattle, and many slaves had been destroyed; several towns had suffered, and the principal in an extreme degree. From these causes, the inhabitants, to the number of above 20,000 whites, had been almost destitute of habitations, food, and raiment. The petitioners therefore solicited the House, that it would afford the sufferers such speedy and effectual relief, as would not only secure them from impending want, but also assist them to erect anew their buildings, and to procure other necessaries, and thereby enable them again to cultivate their estates. A petition was also presented from the lord mayor, aldermen, and common council of London, recommending the distressed inhabitants of Jamaica and Barbadoes to the attention and generosity of Parliament.

The minister informed the House, that his Majesty having been acquainted with the contents of these petitions, had recommended them to the consideration of Parliament. The day following, therefore, the business was more particularly discussed; when Lord North observed, that if an estimate were to be made of the commercial value to this country of the two parishes on which the hurricane fell in Jamaica, and if it were compared with the commercial value to this country of Barbadoes, perhaps those two parishes were more than equivalent, in that scale, to the whole of that island. If therefore a calculation were to be made of the quantum of relief to be sent to each island upon this principle, the greatest sum would be sent to Jamaica: but Parliament would be too just to make this the rule of their charity, which should be regulated, not by the measure of their loss, but by the urgency of their wants. The hurricane had fallen on only a part of Jamaica, but had ravaged and laid waste the whole of Barbadoes. In the latter island all were sufferers; in Jamaica, the greater part of the island, though indeed the least fertile, had escaped the general visitation: whence it might be presumed, that the necessities of life might be purchased by the poor amongst the sufferers, which were not very many in the two suffering parishes, for money: money therefore was the principal thing of which they stood in need. But in Barbadoes, where the effects of the hurricane were general, the number of poor white people was great, and they would stand in need of many of the necessities of life, consisting of bulky commodities, which could not be transmitted, like a credit on the bank of England, without any expence, but would occasion a considerable deduction from the sum voted for their relief,—for freight, insurance, and similar incidents:—In the article of assistance, therefore, the painful preference was due to Barbadoes. In consequence of this statement, the House agreed to three resolutions:—First, to grant 80,000*l.* for the relief

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1781 of Barbadoes; secondly, to grant 40,000*l.* for the relief of Jamaica; and, thirdly, that these sums should be paid for the use of the sufferers, without any deduction.

On the 25th of the same month, the ministers communicated to both Houses of Parliament a message from the King, in which his Majesty acquainted them, that during the recess, he had been obliged to direct letters of marque and reprisal to be issued against the States-General of the United Provinces and their subjects. For the causes and motives of his conduct, on that occasion, he referred them to his public manifesto against that republic, which he had ordered to be laid before the House, &c. with several other papers relative to the rupture with Holland.

Very animated debates took place on this occasion in both Houses: the opposition reprobated the war with Holland in the most pointed manner. But the principal ground of argument was taken between the Dutch and the Americans, which had been discovered by the capture of Mr. Laurens. It was said to be no more than the plan of a treaty, or the rough draught of a compact hereafter to be entered into by the intending contracting parties: that it depended entirely on events which were unknown, and might not happen; in which case, the treaty was never to be ratified: that it was no more than a speculative essay,—a mere contemplative project.

To such reasoning it was easily answered—That the treaty was actually signed and sealed; the names of the pensionary of Amsterdam, and Monsieur de Neuville, a merchant of that city, being subscribed to it on the part of the magistracy of Amsterdam, and the name of William Lee, as commissioner or agent for the Congress of America. Besides, it might be very properly urged, that when two powers stood connected together by solemn treaty and ancient alliance, as the States of Holland and Great Britain were, it made very little difference in the scale of offence and provocation, whether a treaty, like that of the pensionary Van Berkel, was fully ratified and consummated, or only in progression. Indeed the States-General had refused to pay the least attention to the requisition in his Majesty's memorial, delivered by Sir Joseph Yorke, that proper notice should be taken of Van Berkel and his associates; so far as such a refusal could be implied by a contemptuous silence. As to the principal magistrates of Amsterdam, they were so far from disavowing the fact, or attempting to palliate it, that they gloried in the whole transaction; and expressly declared, even to the States-General, that what they had done was no more than their indispensable duty required of them. It may be also suggested, that the opinion of this treaty being no more than a project, might, perhaps, have some weight in the argument, if an opportunity had not been given to the States-General to retract or disavow it. Instead of that, their conduct amounted nearly, if not entirely, to an avowal or approbation of its contents: they postponed it *ad referendum*; and by so doing, they disclaimed it in form, but acknowledged it in substance: for, though it may be allowed, for argument's sake, that they were not prepared immediately to punish the offender, Van Berkel, they might have satisfied the British court, by reprobating it in an abstract resolution or opinion, expressing, in general terms, their total disapprobation, and declaring the impropriety or criminality of any of the subjects of the republic entering into a treaty with the rebellious subjects of another state, in amity and alliance with them. The motion made in both Houses, in consequence of the message, that an address should be presented to his Majesty, assuring him that the House would, with a firm and determined resolution, support the just and necessary war against Holland, &c. &c. was carried in both places by a considerable majority.

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1781 The affairs of India now began to require, and to attract the most serious attention of the House of Commons. It was strongly insisted upon by many persons of weight, that the interference of the crown, under the sanction of Parliament, in 1773, in regulating the government of the East India Company's possessions in Asia, and in the management of its affairs at home, instead of the benefits which were held out at that time, had produced such scenes of disorder, and such a state of confusion in India, as has not often been the result of civil, or even of any regulated military establishment.

It was generally allowed, that the double interests which were then formed, mutually counteracting each other, and the opposite powers which the Company's servants looked up to, necessarily slackened all the bands of obedience, and, by degrees, destroyed all authority. The revolution at Madras, the fate of Lord Pigot, the triumph, rather than escape, of the authors of that catastrophe, for which they had only been fined 1000*l.* each, with the extraordinary phenomenon of Indian princes, at the distance of half the globe, becoming the authors of cabals, and the leaders of parties in the capital of Great Britain, formed, altogether, such a combination of circumstances, as pointed out the necessity of a review of our policy itself, in the government of India, as well as of the striking effects which it had produced.

Bengal, by the new regulations, had been made the seat of government of the British dominions in the East. Two jurisdictions were there established; the one possessing all the political and executive powers of government, under the name of Governor-General and Council, extended its superintendence and controul over the other presidencies of Madras and Bombay. The second, composed of judges sent from England, was called the Supreme Court of Judicature, and was entirely independent of the Governor-General and Council. As the one succeeded, with great additional powers, to the ancient presidency, so the latter did to the Mayor's Court of Calcutta: a court, which though composed of magistrates not bred to the knowledge of the law, yet by acting upon the general principles of rectitude, and with the assistance of juries, was highly distinguished, as well for the moderate expence of time and money at which justice was obtained, as for the fairness of its proceedings, and the equity of its decisions.

It was scarcely, perhaps, in the nature of things, that these separate, independent powers, especially at such a distance from home, as to be in a great measure beyond the reach of controul, should subsist long together without clashing. The public had hitherto received only the charges against the Supreme Court of Judicature of Calcutta. Their friends could therefore only request, that no hasty opinions should be formed, nor censure cast upon their conduct, until they were heard.

In this state of things, it was not easy to settle in what proportions the blame is to be laid; upon the constitution itself, or upon those who acted under it. It seems, however, to have been generally acknowledged, that the measure of attempting to establish English laws, courts, and forms of justice, amongst the various nations, religions, languages, and races of men subsisting in India, and where scarcely any length of time could even render them intelligible, will probably ever be considered as a fundamental political error. The antiquity of the Gentoo civilization, laws, religion, and customs, fortified by the invincible attachment which it produced in the people, had, in all ages, procured the political attention, if not the respect, of the most barbarous of their various conquerors. However the people were oppressed or pillaged, their prejudices, in those respects, were held sacred and inviolate.

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The Zemindars, who are at present the great landholders of India, are likewise a sort of hereditary princes of the country. They generally rent from their subsisting masters, those lands which their ancestors possessed in sovereignty. Some of these hold lands to the extent of ten or twelve thousand square miles; and as the rents were generally easy, and the people still regard them with the highest degree of attachment and reverence, they are enabled to retain some appearance of former royalty in their palaces, and still more in their authority. The English government in this country, is in a great measure maintained through this attachment of the people to their princes; and the desire of enabling the Zemindar to discharge his rent, is a principal spur to their industry. All the judicial business of the country had hitherto been transacted in their provincial courts, and matters of litigation decided according to the known laws and customs.

The authority of the native courts was not only denied by the new judicature, but their members were punished, even to ruin, as well as personal infliction, for the discharge of their functions, according to the established laws and constitution of their country, which had, till now, been acknowledged by all conquerors. We are at all times to recollect, that it had been the constant policy of the East India Company, in the government of those countries, to act under the apparent authority, and as the nominal servants and officers, of that shadow of the ancient supreme sovereignty, the representative of the Grand Mogul, who still resided at Delhi: so that the new system of judicature operated not simply as a violent and unprepared innovation, but as a total revolution in the mode of government established by ourselves.

The astonished and terrified natives of Bengal and the adjoining countries, now beheld the extraordinary spectacle of English bailiffs, accompanied by considerable bodies of armed Europeans, traversing the country, at the distance of some hundreds of miles from Calcutta, to execute by force the decrees of the new judicature, founded upon laws and distinctions which they were utterly incapable of comprehending, in the palaces and on the persons of the Zemindars, whom they viewed at once with the respect due to their natural princes, and to the medium of European authority. Force, in defence of all that was held sacred, was opposed to force: a kind of sieges were formed; reinforcements were sent to oppose the assailants; the timidity, not the inclination of the people, prevented their being cut to pieces; places were carried by storm; and the brother of one of the Rajahs, with others of his friends and family, was killed in the defence of his palace.

The apartments of the women, which are held sacred throughout all the East, and still more so among the Gentoos of rank, were violently broken into, and their persons, which are supposed to receive some defilement even from the casual view of a stranger, were subject to the rude handling and rough treatment of that sort of ruffians who are generally employed upon such occasions. But this was not the worst part of the business: their places of private and domestic worship were violated in the same manner, and those symbols or external objects of their adoration, which had been sanctified by the reverence of ages, were dragged from their places by profane hands, and thrown amongst the heap of household furniture which was collected to answer the ends of execution.

The Governor-General and Council, who considered all matters of finance, and, consequently, all transactions with the Zemindars, as cognizable only by themselves, and still regulated, in that resort, by the known laws and customary course of justice in the country, could not but resent this invasion of their authority. They had, indeed, much serious cause of apprehension, from the effects which this violence on the rights, passions, and prejudices of the people

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1781 people might produce in a country, where so many millions of natives were governed by an handful of strangers.

They accordingly employed the military force of the company to restrain the violence of the civil power; and a gang, consisting of fourscore bailiffs and their associates, were in one instance disarmed and sent up prisoners to Calcutta. Two petitions were now presented to Parliament: the one from the Governor General and Council, giving a long statement of the transactions, and requesting an indemnification from those legal penalties which, for the preservation of government and of the country, they had been under the necessity of incurring, in resisting the decrees of the supreme court, and the operation of an act of Parliament.

The second petition was subscribed by 648 British subjects residing in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, containing a long detail of the grievances, oppressions, and violations of their rights as men and as Britons, which they had endured under the authority of the Supreme Court of Judicature; particularly of their being deprived of the benefit of trials by jury in all civil cases; of the establishment of *ex post facto* and retrospective laws; of some matters relative to appeals and the admission of evidence, which appeared to be extremely oppressive and unjust; with a number of other assumptions of power, which, as stated, seemed to be of a very extraordinary nature. They likewise confirm the accounts given by the Governor General and Council, relative to the state of confusion, anarchy and danger, which, through these means, prevailed in the country.

On the 12th of February, General Smith entered into an ample discussion of the petitions, and of the state of affairs in India, and concluded by moving, that the petitions might be referred to a select committee, consisting of fifteen members, to be chosen by ballot, and that it should meet in the chamber above theirs. The minister made no objection to the motion:—but, as he had brought in the bill that had passed a few years before for the government of India, and which was the source of the subsisting grievances, he thought proper to declare, that it could not have been in his contemplation, and certainly was not in his most distant apprehension, that the Court of Judicature established by that bill, should become the source of misery, oppression and injustice, and that it was not proposed to extend its powers in the manner then represented. The select committee, of fifteen gentlemen, was accordingly ballotted in a few days after.

This committee, after sitting some time, delivered in their report, and a bill for new modelling the Supreme Court of Judicature in Bengal, &c. was brought in by General Smith, which, after some opposition and modification in its passage, was at length carried through both Houses, and received the royal assent. By this act it was declared, that the Governor General and Council of Bengal were not subject to the jurisdiction of the supreme court, on account of any thing done by them in their public capacity; and they were indemnified in the resistance which they had made to the orders of that court. It was also enacted, that no person should be subject to the jurisdiction of the supreme court on account of his being a land owner, or farmer of land, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa; that no judicial officers in the country courts should be liable to actions in the supreme court for their decisions; and the two Mufties and Behader Beg, who were then in prison, in consequence of the decision of that court in the Patna cause, were ordered to be discharged.

Whether it was from the consequence the Empress of Russia had acquired from taking the lead in the armed neutrality; from any regard to Great Britain or Holland, or from the apprehension of any unpleasant consequences which might possibly happen to herself from a rupture

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ture between the two powers, her Imperial Majesty took upon herself the office of mediatrix between them; and we find, that, on the first of March in this year, his Excellency Prince Gallitzin, envoy extraordinary from Russia, held a conference with the President of the States General, and presented the following memorial from the Empress of Russia.

“ High and Mighty Lords,

“ No sooner had her Imperial Majesty been informed of the British ambassador’s sudden departure from the Hague, than, without waiting for any further explanation, guided only by the friendship and good will she bears to the two contending powers, and awakened by the alarming tendency of a measure so detrimental to their mutual welfare and tranquillity, she directed to her minister in London to make the most earnest representation to that court, to prevent, if possible, the matter being carried to any extremity, and to recommend the most conciliating measures; offering, at the same time, to promote them as far as was in her power. Although her Majesty has not as yet heard of any answer from the said court, she has some reason to think that the overtures made by her have been favourably received. In consequence whereof, her Imperial Majesty does not hesitate to give a fresh proof of her good intentions for bringing about a reconciliation between the two powers, whom she equally supports, and who have lived so long in that natural and perfect harmony which best suits their respective interests, by offering them, in form, her services and mediation, for the purpose of putting an end to that discord and war, which has lately broken out between them.

“ While Monsieur Simolin, her Imperial Majesty’s minister at the court of London, is fulfilling her commands on this head, the under-written has the honour to acquit himself of the same task here, with their High Mightinesses, and to assure them of the zeal and readiness he wishes to have an opportunity to display, in forwarding the desirable work of restoring the said States to their wonted peace and tranquillity. That disinterestedness, impartiality and benevolence, which have hitherto stamped every action of her Imperial Majesty, are equally conspicuous in the present instance.

“ The wisdom and prudence of your High Mightinesses will easily distinguish those sacred characteristics, and dictate the answer which the under-written shall transmit to his Imperial Mistress, as a proof of his having executed her commands.

“ (Signed,)

LE PRINCE DE GALLITZIN.”

On the 7th of the same month, their noble and great Mightinesses the States of Holland and West Friesland having examined the above memorial, accepted of the mediation offered by the Empress of Russia.

At the same time, a similar memorial was presented to the court of Great Britain by Monsieur Simolin, the Russian minister resident there, wherein her Imperial Majesty proposes herself in like manner, to become a mediatrix between Great Britain and Holland. To this memorial, Lord Stormont, one of his Majesty’s principal Secretaries of State, returned the following answer:

“ The alliance which has subsisted so many years between Great Britain and the States General, has always been considered by his Majesty as a tie, formed by the most natural causes, and not only agreeable to the interest of both nations, but absolutely essential to their mutual welfare.

“ The King has done every thing in his power to preserve this tie unbroken, and even to strengthen it; and if the conduct of their High Mightinesses had at all answered to that of his Majesty, they would still have remained in their utmost force. But, since the commencement

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1781 of the present troubles, the only return made by the republic to this constant friendship, has been the total relinquishment of the principles of an alliance, the prime object of which was the mutual defence of the two nations; an obstinate refusal to fulfil the most sacred obligations; a daily violation of the most solemn treaties; an assistance given to the very enemy, against whom he had a right to demand succour; an asylum granted to the American pirates in the Dutch ports, in open violation of the clearest stipulations; and, to complete the whole, a denial of justice and satisfaction for the affront given to the dignity of the King, by a secret league with his rebellious subjects.

“ All these accumulated injuries rendered it impossible for the King to take any other part than that which he has done.

“ When the motives which rendered this rupture inevitable were explained to the public, the King ascribed the conduct of the Republic to the true cause; that is to say, to the unhappy influence of a faction, which sacrificed the interest of the nation to their own private views. But the King, at the same time, manifested the most sincere desire to bring back the republic to that system of strict union, efficacious alliance and reciprocal protection, which has so much contributed to the welfare and glory of the two States.

“ When the Empress offered her good offices to effect a reconciliation by a particular peace, the King testified his gratitude to her for that fresh proof of a friendship which he values so highly, and avoided exposing the mediation of her Majesty to a fruitless negotiation. He explained his reasons, which persuaded him that, in the present disposition of the Republic, governed by a faction, all reconciliation, during the war with France, would be merely superficial, and would afford an opportunity to the party which sways the Republic, to act as secret auxiliaries of all the King's enemies, under the mask of a pretended alliance with Great Britain.

“ But if there are any indications of change in this disposition, if the powerful intervention of her Imperial Majesty should be able to effect any alteration, and induce the republic to return to those principles which the most discerning part of the nation have never forsaken, his Majesty will be ready to treat with their High Mightinesses on the subject of a separate peace; and it is his wish, that the Empress of all the Russias may be the sole mediatress of the peace. She has been the first to offer her good offices, and so powerful an intervention as hers, cannot gain any thing either in weight or influence by the accession of the most respectable allies.

“ The friendship of the Empress to both nations, the interest which her empire has in their reciprocal welfare, her known impartiality and elevated views, are sufficient pledges of the manner in which she will conduct this salutary work; and in a negotiation, the whole object of which is to terminate a war, caused by a violation of the treaties, and by an affront offered to his crown, his Majesty relies, with the utmost confidence and satisfaction, upon the mediation of a sovereign, who holds sacred the faith of treaties, who knows so well how to estimate the dignity of sovereigns, and who has maintained her own, during her glorious reign, with so much greatness and resolution.

“ (Signed,)

STORMONT.”

In the mean time, the loss incurred by the Dutch was felt by them in a very severe degree. The profits derived from their late commerce at St. Eustatius was immense: it was a trade of clear and certain gain, as it consisted almost entirely in consignments.

Such heavy losses as they had sustained, in every particular, on the commencement of a war, in which they had involved themselves without necessity, and against their best interests, excited the loudest clamours among those people throughout the Seven United Provinces, who were

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1781 not entirely devoted to the French. That party which had recommended violent measures against Great Britain, began to lose its popularity in proportion to the distresses which were now daily accumulating on the trading individuals, of which the Dutch nation is chiefly composed. These distresses occasioned very great discontents and complaints in some of the provinces: that of Zealand in particular, which, from its commercial interests was more closely connected with Great Britain than the others, expressed a strong aversion to the hostile disposition of Holland. It presented, therefore, a memorial to the States General, signifying its opinion, that a negotiation should be set on foot in order to put an end to the difference between Great Britain and the Republic, and earnestly requested that such measures might be adopted, as would speedily restore that harmony which had so long subsisted between them.

This memorial was strongly supported by the merchants and trading people of the city of Middleburg, the capital of Zealand. They represented in the most free and explicit terms, that the English and Dutch could not engage in a war with each other, but to their mutual injury: they alleged the long and close intimacy between the British nation and the people of Zealand: this province was full of English traders, the number of whom settled in Middleburg alone amounted to near 2000: a war with England, therefore, must prove highly destructive to them, and would deeply affect the interests of the whole Republic.

These remonstrances, however well founded, made no impression on the States. The French faction was now become so powerful, that all reason and argument were over-ruled, and the resolution taken to prosecute hostilities against Great Britain with the utmost vigour.

She applied to the courts of Petersburg, Stockholm and Copenhagen, claiming their assistance in consequence of the compact of neutrality entered into with those powers; and alleging, that the declaration of war on the part of Great Britain, was solely caused by their accession to the treaty of neutrality. The following is the memorial delivered on this occasion by the States General to the court of Stockholm.

“ The under-written envoy extraordinary from their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces, to his Majesty the King of Sweden, in pursuance of an express order from his masters, has the honour to propose to his Swedish Majesty,

“ That their High Mightinesses having acceded, by their resolution of the 20th of November, 1780, to the treaty of armed neutrality, in conformity to the invitation of the northern powers; and placing the most perfect confidence in the power, magnanimity and fidelity of their imperial and royal Majesties, for the fulfilling of their engagements, and the maintaining of their dignity, by accomplishing a work so gloriously undertaken, namely, the liberty of the seas, the freedom of navigation for all neutral nations, were not deterred by the consideration of the consequences, which that accession and declaration might be productive of to the Republic, from the part of the belligerent powers. But their High Mightinesses have declared in favour of this accession and declaration, in relying implicitly on the sentiments of their imperial and royal Majesties, whom they also acquainted in due time, of the measures taken in consequence thereof.

“ That the event has also justified their requisition, in regard to the British court; since the minister of the latter, after his fruitless endeavours to thwart the accession to the alliance, took the resolution, on the first notice he had of it, to speak in a strain truly unprecedented, and ill suited to the mutual regard which the respective sovereigns owe to each other; without so much as granting to the Republic a sufficient time to consider on the matter, according to the political system of the Republic, which his Britannic Majesty is fully acquainted with; the

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1781 English minister insisted, nevertheless, upon an immediate and speedy satisfaction, and the punishment of a pretended offence, occasioned by the discovery of a negotiation with North America, without receiving, as an ample satisfaction, the provisional answer, nor the formal disavowal of their High Mightinesses of a negotiation, of which (as acknowledged even by his Britannic Majesty) they had not the least share, or knowledge: of a negotiation, relating to a pretended treaty, which, in itself, sufficiently denotes, from its terms, only the sketch of an eventual treaty entered into by private persons, without being formally authorised thereto by the body of the magistrates of Amsterdam, or by the states of the province of Holland, and much less by the States General, whose members are alone authorised to enter into engagements in the name of the Republic.

“ The British minister went even so far as to refuse noticing the resolution, by which the province of Holland (the only one concerned) was required to deliberate, how far the laws of the country might give authority to prosecute the persons accused, and punish them; a formality, without which no punishment can be inflicted, neither in England nor in this Republic, or any other country. Nay, the said minister went so far as to threaten, that in case of a refusal, his sovereign would adopt such means, as to procure himself that satisfaction. It was, at the same time, resolved to attack the Republic by surprise, and so far hasten the measures taken to begin hostilities, that Lord Stormont, making use of vain pretences, would not so much as accept from Count Welderen, the aforesaid declaration; and answered, under his hand, ‘ That he (Stormont) could no longer look upon him as the minister of a friendly power, after having officially acquainted him of his King’s manifesto:’ whilst this very manifesto (and this should be noted) was delivered into the hands of Count Welderen, only an hour before the time appointed by Lord Stormont, the preceding day, for giving him audience. That, moreover, although no mention is made in the manifesto alluded to, of the Republic acceding to the treaty of the armed neutrality, (which it was of the utmost importance to pass over in silence) it nevertheless appears clearly, to the penetrating eye of your Majesty, as well as to all Europe, if the whole proceedings are attended to, and the time and manner in which the manifesto was published, that the hatred, occasioned by the Republic acceding to the confederation of armed neutrality, is the true motive of his British Majesty’s resentment, and the only one that could excite him to an open attack against the Republic, by seizing, at once, upon a great number of Dutch merchantmen, and some ships of war. Besides, that the aforesaid manifesto, known to your Majesty, sufficiently displays the cause of England’s displeasure; the more so, as amongst the pretences made use of to varnish over the hostilities against the Republic, it is said, that it had taken a neutral part: without the cabinet of St. James’s deigning to observe, that such answer was insulting to the neutral powers, who are perfectly acquainted with the treaties now in force between England and the Republic; and that the latter could not be charged with an intention of entering into an alliance with a power not lawfully neuter in the present contest, and without observing, that this liberty of negotiating had been put beyond all doubt, by England itself; since, by suspending in April, 1780, the effects of the treaty passed in 1674, the English have manifested their intent of looking henceforth upon the Republic as a neutral power, no ways privileged by any treaty.

“ That for the reasons hereabove mentioned, the animosity of Great Britain appears still more conspicuous, from the ill-grounded reproach contained in the said manifesto against this Republic, that their High Mightinesses had encouraged the exportation of naval stores for France, by suspending the usual duties on those commodities, whilst it is known to all the

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1781 world, that such a suspension has never taken place, and that the Republic had a right to export those commodities, not only agreeably to the treaty in 1674, but also in conformity to the principles laid down by the neutral powers in the convention of armed neutrality. That consequently it would be needless to enter any farther into the merits of the said manifesto; as his Swedish Majesty has it in his power to appreciate himself its value, and must, moreover, be fully persuaded that the line of conduct pursued by their High Mightinesses since the beginning of the troubles with America, is an evident proof, that they have never favoured or countenanced the revolted colonies; witness the many partial condescensions in favour of England, which were merely gratuitous on the part of their High Mightinesses, by circumscribing the trade within their own colonies; by refusing to grant the protection of their convoys to vessels laden with ship timber; and by recalling the governor of St. Eustatia on some ill-grounded complaints of the British ministry: condescensions which have been rewarded by the attack and seizure of the convoy of Count Byland; by a violation of the territories of this Republic, and by the taking by force some American vessels from under the very batteries of the island of St. Martin.

“ That their High Mightinesses having thus faithfully adhered to the system of moderation, it is evident that the resentment of his Britannic Majesty arises merely from their accession to the treaty of armed neutrality; and that consequently, their High Mightinesses are fully authorised to claim the performance of the conditions stipulated in the articles VII. VIII. and IX. of the treaty of armed neutrality, which form the basis of that union and alliance contracted between their imperial and royal Majesties and the Republic. That therefore no obstacle can hinder or delay the fulfilling of the engagements contracted by virtue of the said confederation, of which the Republic ought to be considered as a member from the very moment in which their High Mightinesses acceded to the same resolution at the Hague; and dispatched their declaration, in conformity to the said accession and convention, to the belligerent powers.

“ That if their High Mightinesses had to complain only of a single act of offence, or an attack committed against them, which was likely to be redressed by the friendly interposition of their allies, they would have claimed their intervention rather than have recourse to arms; but as their High Mightinesses find themselves actually and suddenly attacked in an hostile manner by his Britannic Majesty, in consequence of, and from mere resentment of the above-mentioned alliance, they find themselves under the necessity of repelling force by force, and to return hostilities for hostilities; being fully persuaded that the allied powers will not hesitate to make this their common cause, and to procure to the Republic due satisfaction and indemnity for the losses occasioned by an attack equally unjust and violent; and that the said powers will moreover, in conjunction with the States General, take such farther measures, as the exigencies of the present circumstances may require. This their High Mightinesses solicit with great earnestness, and rely upon it with so much more confidence, as they are firmly persuaded, that the generous and equitable sentiments, which actuate their imperial and royal Majesties, will not suffer them to let the Republic fall a victim to a system of politics, not less glorious than founded in equity, and established for the security of the rights of neutral nations; and especially as the Republic, if left singly exposed to the iniquitous and violent attacks of England, would hardly be able to cope with that overbearing power, and thus run the hazard of becoming totally useless to the said confederation.

“ For these reasons, the under-written envoy extraordinary, insisting on the motives urged here above, and fully persuaded that the ratifications of the treaty signed at Petersburg, will
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1781 take place as soon as possible, has the honour, in the name and by express order of his masters, to claim the performance of the engagements stipulated in the articles VII. VIII. and IX. of the said treaty, and to require, in virtue thereof, a speedy and adequate assistance from his Swedish Majesty, whose noble and equitable sentiments, acknowledged by all Europe, will not permit him to abandon the complete establishment of a system worthy the highest praise.

“ The friendship and affection of your Majesty towards their High Mightinesses, leave them no doubt of your Majesty’s willingly granting the assistance which they now claim, and also promise to the under-written envoy a speedy and satisfactory answer, which he solicits the more anxiously, as every moment’s delay may be attended with heavy and irreparable losses to the Republic.

“ (Signed,)

D. W. VAN LYNDEN.

But these solicitations of the States General to the northern courts, though very urgent and pressing, did not produce the effect that was intended. They demanded an immediate reinforcement of ships of war; but the jealousy entertained of the British power, was not greater than the dread of exposing themselves to its resentment, in the different members of the armed neutrality. They contented themselves with remaining on the defensive; and were not in the least inclined to give any further provocation to Great Britain. They might also be of opinion, that the combination already formed against it, was fully sufficient for the purposes they had in view; and that by adding to it, the balance of naval power, for which it had been framed, might, contrary to their intentions, incline too much on the other side.

The situation of the Seven United Provinces at this juncture, was very different from what it had been upon former emergencies of this nature. The Dutch are known to be a brave people; but, from a long disuse of arms, they were now in a state but ill prepared for war. Relying too much on the difficulties wherein Great Britain was involved, they imagined that an open and avowed declaration of hostilities against them, was a measure they had not the least reason to apprehend.

The naval force of the Seven United Provinces, bore, at this time, no proportion to its splendor in former times, when it was able to meet the united strength of England and France on the ocean, and was equally the terror and the admiration of their enemies. Four score years were now elapsed, since they had been under the necessity of prosecuting any naval war. During this long interval, their shipping had been totally engrossed by the occupations of peace and commerce, and Britain was the last power against which it had been expected, they should first renew their exertions of war.

On a review of their marine, it was found very inadequate to the ideas entertained by the rest of Europe. The Dutch were fully sensible of the great danger to which their trade was evidently exposed, from the vast strength, enterprising disposition, and near vicinity of the enemy with whom they had to contend; nevertheless, so remote had their thoughts been from a war with England, that the preservation of their commerce, which is the sole foundation of their power and prosperity, had now no other domestic protection than eleven ships of the line, from 60 to 70 guns, and fifty ships and vessels of war of inferior force. This was but a shadow of their ancient power at sea; but depending on the support of the enemies of Great Britain, they entertained no common hope of resisting with effect such detached parts of her maritime forces, as she could spare from the necessary defence of her numerous possessions in so many parts of the globe.

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In order, however, to remove, as much possible, the imputation of folly and inconsiderateness to which they were, at this time, very generally subject, the States General published the following laboured manifesto, in which they endeavoured to justify their conduct towards Great Britain. But the combined force of all the arguments and reasonings which it contained, were by no means sufficient to make any proselytes to their politics: for the Dutch to accede to the confederacy formed against Great Britain, in conjunction with the House of Bourbon, was to give additional strength to the compact framed between the members of that too powerful family, whose enmity they had much more reason to dread than that of the British nation, and of whose ambition they had more than once experienced the most alarming consequences.

“ If ever the annals of the world have furnished an instance of a free and independent state being attacked by an enemy, in the most unjustifiable manner, and without the least appearance of right or equity, by a neighbouring power allied for a long time, and bound by ties founded on the basis of common interest, it is without doubt, the Republic of the United States of the Netherlands, which finds itself in that case with his Majesty the King of Great Britain, and his ministers. From the beginning of the disputes, which had arisen between that kingdom and its American colonies, their High Mightinesses, no wise obliged to interfere, had taken the firm and determined resolution to adopt and strictly to adhere to the most exact neutrality: and when the said disputes had kindled the flames of a war which hath embroiled more powers than one, and spread in several parts of the world, their High Mightinesses have constantly observed and maintained the same line of conduct; whilst, in the meantime, they have taken care to give on many occasions, and in some instances of a very essential nature, the most convincing proofs of their sincere inclination to conform to the wishes of his Majesty: so far as they could do it without going against the rules of impartiality, or bringing in question their rights of sovereignty.

“ It was with this view, and for this purpose, that their High Mightinesses from the beginning, and at the requisition of his Britannic Majesty, caused most express inhibitions to be published against the exportation of all warlike stores to the colonies of his Britannic Majesty in America; and against all fraudulent trade with the said colonies: and in order that the said prohibitions should be more effectually carried into execution, their High Mightinesses made no difficulty to take such farther steps as greatly circumscribed their own navigation, and the trade of their subjects with the Dutch colonies in the West Indies.

“ It was to further the above purposes, that their High Mightinesses sent the most exact orders to all commanders, and governors of their colonies and settlements, as well as to the commanders of their ships of war, carefully to abstain from doing, in regard to the American flag, any thing from which could be justly inferred or deduced an acknowledgment of the independency of the said colonies: and it is also, especially to the above intent, that their High Mightinesses having received a memorial presented to them by the English ambassador, full of the heaviest complaints against the governor of St. Eustatia, condescended to deliberate on the said memorial; though couched in terms little consonant with the regard which sovereign powers owe to each other: the consequence of the said deliberation was the immediate recall of the said governor, whom their High Mightinesses called to an account for his conduct, and who was not permitted to return to his residence till he had cleared himself of all the charges brought against him, before a court of justice; a copy of whose proceedings was soon after transmitted to the minister of his Britannic Majesty.

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“ By such measures as these, their High Mightinesses, who always earnestly wished to avoid giving the smallest cause of discontent to his Britannic Majesty, have constantly endeavoured to promote and cultivate perfect harmony; but his Britannic Majesty's conduct towards the republic has been diametrically opposite.

“ The differences between the courts of London and Versailles had scarcely broke out, when they beheld the ports of England filled with Dutch vessels, which were unjustly seized and detained: these vessels navigated upon the faith of the treaties, and were not laden with any other merchandize than what the express tenor of the treaties had declared free and legal. They beheld those free cargoes forced to submit to an arbitrary and despotic authority. The cabinet at St. James's knowing no other rule than an assumed right of *temporary convenience*, thought proper to appropriate those cargoes to the use of the crown, by a forcible purchase, and to employ them in the service of the King's navy. The most earnest and serious representations on the part of their High Mightinesses against these proceedings were ineffectual, and it was in vain that they urged, in the strongest manner possible, the treaty subsisting between England and the republic. By this treaty, the rights and liberties of the *neutral flag* are decisively and clearly stated. The subjects of Great Britain had fully enjoyed the advantages of this treaty, in the first, and only case, wherein it pleased the court of London to remain neuter, whilst the republic was engaged in a war. Certainly then, in a reciprocal case, that court could not, without the greatest injustice, refuse the enjoyment of the same advantages to the republic; and as little right as his Britannic Majesty had to withhold the advantageous effects of this treaty from their High Mightinesses, he had as little foundation for attempting to make them quit the neutrality they had embraced, and to force them to plunge into a war, the cause of which related immediately to the rights and possessions of his Britannic Majesty lying beyond the limits of defensive treaties. And, notwithstanding, this treaty, his Majesty, from the commencement of the difference with the crown of France, has made no scruple of infringing and violating it. The trespasses and infractions made on this treaty, on the part of Great Britain, and the arbitrary decisions of the courts of justice in that kingdom, directly contrary to the express sanction of the same treaty, multiplied daily. The merchant vessels became the innocent victims of the exactions and accumulated violences of the English men of war and privateers. They did not, however, rest there: the very flag of the States was not spared, but openly and outrageously insulted by an hostile attack upon the convoy under the care of Rear-admiral Count de Byland. The strongest representation from the States to his Britannic Majesty were disregarded, the ships taken from the convoy were declared good prizes, and this insult on the flag of the republic, was very soon followed by an open violation of their neutral territory, as well in Europe as America. They will content themselves, however, with reciting two examples.

“ At the island of St. Martin, his Britannic Majesty attacked, and carried away by force, several vessels that lay at anchor under the cannon of the fort, where, according to the inviolable rights of mankind, the vessels ought to have found a secure asylum. The insults committed by an armed English vessel on the coast of the republic, near Geedereede, furnish a second example of these violations. These insults were carried so far, that many inhabitants of the island, who dwelt on the shore, where they ought to have supposed themselves secure from any disturbance, were exposed, by the violence of the fire from the ships, to such imminent danger, that they were forced to retire to the interior part of the island. Yet, for these

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1781 these unheard of proceedings, the republic, notwithstanding the strongest and best founded representations, has not obtained the smallest satisfaction.

“ Affairs being thus situated, so that their High Mightinesses had no other alternative left them, but to see the navigation and commerce of their subjects, on which the ruin or prosperity of their republic alone depends, totally annihilated, or else to adopt measures hostile to their old friend and ally; at this period the Empress of Russia, urged by a generous magnanimity of disposition, thought proper to interfere, and with as much affection as humanity, invited the republic to take the justest measures, and such too as were entirely consistent with the treaty subsisting between the States and other powers, for the defending and maintaining, in conjunction with her Imperial Majesty and the other northern powers, those privileges and immunities which the rights of nations and the most solemn treaties allowed to neutral flags.

“ This invitation could not but be infinitely agreeable to their High Mightinesses, since they considered it as a means of securing the undisturbed commerce of their subjects upon the most solid basis, and as holding out a method of protecting their independence against every infraction, at the same time that it proposed nothing at all derogatory to the alliance contracted between them and his Britannic Majesty, or the other belligerent powers. But this was a measure of which the court of London endeavoured to deprive the republic, by proceeding with precipitation to the most desperate extremities, by recalling their ambassador, by the publication of a manifesto, containing a list of fictitious grievances, and by granting letters of marque and pretended reprisal against the States, their subjects, and their property; by which violence, indeed, this court did nothing more than clearly carry into proof and practice the designs which they have for a long time fostered, of disregarding the true and essential interests which connect the two nations, and of destroying the bonds of their ancient amity, by an attack so replete with injustice.

“ It will not be at all necessary to enter into an elaborate refutation of the reasons, and pretended griefs which were alleged in the manifesto, to convince every impartial man of their entire want of solidity. It will be sufficient to observe, in few words, with respect to the offer which was made by his Britannic Majesty for opening an amicable conference, that the sole object of these conferences could only be this,—to take into consideration the naval treaty spoken of above; that the construction of this treaty, conceived as it is in terms the most clear and express, could not be a subject of any doubt or equivocation; that it gives the neutral powers a free right of conveying to the belligerent powers all kinds of naval stores; that the republic, neither proposing any thing else to themselves, nor desiring any thing more of his Britannic Majesty, than the quiet, undisturbed enjoyment of rights stipulated in this treaty, a point so manifest, and incontrovertibly equitable, could not perceive any reason or motive for a negotiation, or any other new convention, which must have been derogatory to the treaty in question, particularly as their High Mightinesses could not prevail upon themselves, nor experience the least disposition to renounce, voluntarily, rights justly acquired, nor to desist from their rights by a regard for the court of England; a renunciation, which, though advantageous to one of the belligerent powers, would be totally incompatible with the principles of neutrality, and by which their High Mightinesses would, from another quarter, have subjected the state to dangers, which they think it is their duty most solemnly to avert: a renunciation also, which would have carried with it a most irreparable injury to their commerce and navigation, which is the principal support of the republic, and the source of all their prosperity; for the different branches of their commerce are severally so intimately connected with each

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1781 each other, so as to form one whole, that it is impossible to separate one part of so principal a nature as was expected by the court of London, without the entire ruin and destruction of the general body: not to mention, that at this time, when their High Mightinesses made a reasonable difficulty of acceding to the proposed conference, they yet qualified and tempered this effectual exercise of their rights by a provisional resolution.

“ As for the succours required, their High Mightinesses cannot dissemble, that they never could conceive how his Britannic Majesty thought himself justified to insist, under the most distant appearance of right or equity, for the assistance stipulated by the treaties, at the time when he had already foregone the obligation which they imposed on him towards the republic. Their High Mightinesses were not less surpris'd to see, that whilst the disturbances in America, and their direct consequences, could not affect the republic by virtue of any treaty, and that the assistance had not been required before the declaration of the court of Spain had increased the number of the belligerent powers; his Britannic Majesty had nevertheless taken occasion, from this event, to insist on his demand with so much earnestness, as if his Majesty had a right to pretend and maintain, that a war being once kindled between him and some other power, was alone sufficient to compel the States to grant directly, and without any previous examination, the said stipulated assistance.

“ The republic, it is true, had bound itself by treaties to aid and assist the kingdom of Great Britain, whenever that power should be attacked or threatened with an unjust war: the republic was moreover to declare war, in such a case, against the aggressor; but their High Mightinesses never intended to give up that right which is the nature of a defensive alliance, and which cannot be disputed to the allied powers, to examine first, and before they grant the required assistance, or take part in the war, the principles of the dissensions which have prevailed; the nature of the differences from which they sprang; as also to investigate and maturely weigh the reasons and motives which may enforce the *casus fœderis*, and which are to form the basis of the equity and lawfulness of the war, on the part of that confederate state claiming the aforesaid assistance. There is not a treaty extant, by which their High Mightinesses have foregone the independence of the States, or sacrificed their interests to those of Great Britain, so far as to deprive themselves of the right of so necessary and indispensable an examination, by taking such steps as might insinuate, that they should be looked upon as compelled to submit to the pleasure of Great Britain, by granting the required assistance; even when the above court, being at variance with another power, thinks proper to prefer a war to an amicable accommodation on well supported complaints.

“ It is not therefore through spirit of party, or the scheme of a predominant cabal, but after a mature deliberation, and by a desire of supporting the dearest interests of the republic, that all the provincial states respectively have, with one voice, testified they were of opinion, that the assistance required should be politely refused; and their High Mightinesses would not have failed to communicate to his Britannic Majesty, in consequence of those resolutions, an answer to the repeated requests for assistance, had they not been prevented from so doing, by the violent and unprecedented insult offered to the Dutch flag, under the command of Rear-admiral Byland; by their being refused redress on so serious a matter, and by his Majesty's declaration, no less strange than unjust, in regard to the suspension of the treaties which subsisted between him and the republic. These were so many events, which, as they required deliberations of a different kind, put an end to those which were held in consequence of the aforesaid requisitions. It is in vain, and in opposition to all truth, that endeavours have been used

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1781 used to multiply the number of grievances, by alleging the suppression of duties on exports, as a measure calculated to facilitate the carrying of naval stores over to France: for, besides that the said suppression is an object which respects the interior regulation of commerce, to which all sovereigns have an incontrovertible right, and for which they are accountable to no one, the matter has been put in deliberation, but never finally resolved upon; so that these duties are still on the former footing: and what is set forth, respecting this matter, in the manifesto, is totally groundless; though it cannot be denied, that the conduct of his Britannic Majesty towards the republic, furnished their High Mightinesses with but too many motives to justify such a measure on their part.

“ The displeasure of his Britannic Majesty, in regard to what has been done for Paul Jones, is equally groundless. Their High Mightinesses had, for many years before, given general and positive orders for the admission into their ports of all privateers and armed ships, with their prizes; orders which have been observed and executed without the least exceptions: in this case, their High Mightinesses could not desist from such orders, in regard to an armed ship, which, provided with a commission from the American Congress, was in the Texel, together with the frigates of a sovereign power, without assuming the part of judges, and giving a decision in a matter which their High Mightinesses were not obliged to take any cognizance of, and in which it seemed to them contrary to the interest of the republic to interfere. Their High Mightinesses, therefore, thought it best not to swerve from the rules established for so long a time; but resolved to lay the strongest injunctions, lest the said privateers and armed ships should take in any warlike stores; and desired them to quit the road as soon as possible, without being permitted to sojourn, but just as long as would prove absolutely necessary to repair the damages suffered at sea; declaring formally, at the same time, that in case of a longer delay, their departure should be positively insisted upon. To this purpose, the commanding officer in the said road took care to make every requisite disposition, the effects of which the privateer of Paul Jones had hardly time to prevent.

“ In regard to what happened in other parts of the world, the informations transmitted to their High Mightinesses, from time to time, from the East Indies, are in direct opposition to those which seem to have been laid before his Britannic Majesty. The frequent complaints of the East India direction, addressed to them, and which the love of peace had obliged them to smother, as it were, in their breasts, are so many incontrovertible proofs of the assertion. The measures taken in regard to the West Indies, before mentioned, will serve at all times for an unquestionable proof of the sincerity, of the zeal, and of the attention with which their High Mightinesses have assiduously endeavoured to observe, in these countries, the most exact and strict neutrality; nor could their High Mightinesses find out the least legal proof of any infraction of their orders in this respect.

“ As for what concerns the project of an eventual treaty of commerce with North America, framed by a member of the government of the province of Holland, without the sanction of any public authority, and the memorials presented on this matter by the Chevalier Yorke, the matter happened as follows:—

“ As soon as this ambassador had presented a memorial, dated November 10, 1780, their High Mightinesses, without noticing the expressions, rather unbecoming between sovereigns, with which this memorial abounded, did not delay entering into the most serious deliberation on that matter; and by their resolution of the 27th of the same month, they did not hesitate to disclaim and disapprove publicly, whatever had been done in this affair.

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“ After this, they had every reason to expect that his Britannic Majesty would have acceded to this declaration ; since he could not be ignorant that their High Mightinesses have no jurisdiction over the respective provinces, and that it was to the states of Holland to whom, as being invested, as the states of the other provinces, with a sovereign and exclusive authority over their subjects, was to be submitted an affair, which their High Mightinesses had no reason to doubt, but the other states of the said provinces would regulate according to the exigency of the case, and conformably to the laws of the state, and the principles of equity. The eagerness with which the Chevalier Yorke, by his second memorial, insisted on the punishment, could not, of course, but appear very strange to their High Mightinesses, that if he did not receive, the very same day, an answer to his memorial in every respect satisfactory, he should find himself obliged to acquaint his court thereof by an extraordinary courier. Their High Mightinesses, informed of this declaration, soon perceived its importance, as a manifestation of the measures already determined on in the King’s council ; and although, according to the established custom, such verbal declarations from foreign ministers admit of no deliberation, they, nevertheless, thought proper to set it aside on this occasion, and to desire their recorder to wait on the Chevalier, and inform him, that his memorial had been taken *ad referendum*, by the deputies of the respective provinces, according to the received custom and constitution of government ; adding, at the same time, what seemed designedly omitted in the manifesto, that they would endeavour to frame an answer to his memorial as soon as possible, and the constitution of government would permit. In consequence thereof, a few days after, the deputies of the province of Holland gave notice to the assembly of their High Mightinesses, that the states of their province had, *una voce*, resolved to require the advice of their court of justice in regard to the requisition of punishment ; requesting the said court to give their opinion as soon as possible, foregoing all other affairs. Their High Mightinesses did not fail to acquaint the Chevalier Yorke with the above resolve ; but what was their surprize and astonishment, when they understood that the said ambassador, after having read his instructions, had sent a note to the recorder, wherein he called the above said resolve illusive, and flatly refused to transmit it to his court ! This obliged their High Mightinesses to send it to Count Wel- deren, their minister at London, with orders to lay it immediately before the minister of his Britannic Majesty ; but the refusal of the latter created an obstacle to the execution of those orders.

“ All the circumstances of this affair being thus exposed, the impartial public will be able to appreciate the principal motive, or rather pretence, to which his Britannic Majesty has had recourse, in order to give a scope to his designs against the republic. To this we may reduce the whole matter :—His Britannic Majesty was informed of a negotiation which would have taken place between a member of the government of one of the provinces, and a representative of the American Congress ; which negotiation intended to lay the plan of a treaty of commerce to be concluded between the republic and the said colonies, *casu quo*, that is to say, that in case the independency of those colonies should be acknowledged by the crown of England : this negotiation, although conditional, and holding by a clause which depended on the anterior act of his Majesty ;—this negotiation, which, without the said act, or anterior declaration, could not have the least effect, was so misconstrued by his Majesty, and excited his displeasure to such a degree, that he thought proper to require from the States a public disavowal and disapprobation, as well as a complete punishment and satisfaction. It was in consequence, and without the least delay, that their High Mightinesses acceded to the first part of his requisition ;

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1781 but the punishment insisted upon, was not within their power; and they could not assent to it, without striking at the root of the fundamental constitution of the state. The states of the province of Holland were the only ones to which it pertained lawfully to take cognizance of it, and to provide thereto by the ordinary means, and by the authority of the laws. This sovereign state, adhering to the maxims which oblige them to respect the authority of the laws, and fully convinced that the maintaining that department in all the integrity and impartiality which are inseparable from it, is the firmest basis of the supreme power; that sovereign state, obliged by what is held most sacred, to defend and protect the rights and privileges of its subjects, could not forget itself so far, as to submit to the will of his Britannic Majesty, by attempting to overturn those rights and privileges, and exceeding the limits prescribed by the fundamental laws of its government: these laws required the intervention of the judicial department; and those were the means which the above states resolved to use, by requiring, on this object, the advice of the court of justice established in their province.

“ By an adherence to this method, it was, that before the eyes of his Britannic Majesty, the English nation, and all Europe, were displayed the unalterable principles of that justice and equity which form the leading feature of the Dutch constitution, and which, in so important a part of public administration, (we mean that which concerns the exercise of the judiciary power) will for ever serve as a bulwark against whatever could militate with the security and independence of a free nation. It was also by these means, and by following this road, that, far from precluding justice, or evading the punishment required, a free course, on the contrary, has been laid open to a regular process, conformably to the constitutional principles of the republic; and by the same reason, in short, depriving the court of London of any pretence to complaint of a denial of justice, care has been taken to anticipate the least shadow or appearance of reason, which might have authorized that court to make reprisals; to which, nevertheless, it has had recourse without scruple, in a manner equally odious and unjust.

“ To these ends, and since, after the repeated outrages and heavy losses which the subjects of this republic must have experienced from his Britannic Majesty, their High Mightinesses find themselves furthermore provoked and assailed by his aforesaid Majesty, and compelled to use those means which they have in hand, in order to defend the precious rights of their liberty and independence; they entertain the firmest hope that the Lord of Hosts, the God of their fathers, who, by the palpable direction of Providence, supported and carried this republic through the greatest dangers, will bless the means which they have determined to employ, by crowning the justice of their arms with the ever-triumphant assistance of his omnipotent protection; whilst their High Mightinesses will ardently fight after the instant, when they shall see their neighbour and old ally, but now their enemy, recalled to sentiments more moderate and equitable. And it is at that period, where their High Mightinesses will improve all the opportunities which, consonant with the honour and independence of a free state, may tend to a reconciliation between them and their old friend and ally.

“ Thus given and settled in the assembly of their High Mightinesses, our Lords the States-General of the United Provinces, at the Hague, the 10th day of March, 1781.

(Signed) “ COCQ HAAFTAN, Vt.

“ By command, H. FAGEL.

Some time in the month of April, a memorial was presented to the States-General by Mr. John Adams, agent for the American Congress at the Hague, declaring the firm resolution of the several United States of America to maintain their independence, at all hazards; pointing out

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1781 out the advantages which would accrue both to Holland and America from a mutual alliance; and therefore requiring them to acknowledge the independence of the United States of America, and to enter into equitable treaties with them, and such as should be beneficial to both countries.

About this time, the King of Prussia acceded to the armed neutrality, which was become so formidable, as to oblige the court of London, in a short time after, to make a concession respecting the navigation of the Baltic, not quite consistent with that high tone which had lately been assumed. A declaration was made by the King of Denmark, "That the Baltic being, from its peculiar and local situation, an inclosed sea, in which the ships of all nations might, and ought to navigate in peace, and enjoy all the advantages of a public tranquillity, his Majesty could not permit, that any ships of war or privateers of the belligerent powers, should enter the said sea, with a view to commit hostilities against the subject of any state whatever."—It was added, that the two other northern courts had adopted, and would support the same system. And on the 21st of April, orders and instructions were published in the London gazette, by which his Britannic Majesty strictly charged and enjoined the commanders of all ships of war, and the commanders of all ships and vessels having letters of marque and reprisal, not to stop or detain any ships or vessels in the Baltic, for the purpose of making prize of the same; but that they should suffer all such ships or vessels as they should meet in those seas, to proceed on their respective voyages, without interruption.

Towards the close of the month of March, the Count de Grasse had sailed from Brest, with 21 ships of the line, and a fleet of merchantmen and transports, consisting of near 300 vessels, on board of which were 6000 troops. His destination was for Martinico, where he was to be joined by another squadron; and from the inferiority of the British fleet commanded by Admiral Hood, which was sent to oppose him, he arrived there with little interruption.

Thus strengthened, the Marquis de Bouillé, governor of Martinico, on the departure of Admiral Hood for Barbadoes, made an attempt, which had been for some time in agitation, of surprizing the island of St. Lucia, the situation of which enabled the British to keep Martinico in a state of continual alarm, and to discover and counteract all the motions of the French. For this purpose, in the night of the 10th of May, the French governor landed a strong detachment at St. Lucia, and summoned the garrison to surrender: but though it was, at this time, far from numerous, the commanders, after returning a resolute answer to the message, shewed such a determined disposition to resistance, as well as such able preparations to put it in execution, that the French did not dare to proceed in their intended attack, but withdrew, with their whole armament, to Martinico.

To compensate, however, for this failure, a large body of French troops was dispatched to effect a landing on the island of Tobago. On their appearance off the island, on the 23d of May, Governor Ferguson dispatched a swift sailing vessel with the intelligence to Sir George Rodney, at Barbadoes, who immediately sent Admiral Drake, with six sail of the line, some frigates, and a regiment and two additional companies, to its relief. On the 29th, (which was the day after the rear-admiral's departure) he received intelligence, that the French fleet had been seen to the windward of St. Lucia, and were apparently standing towards Tobago. On Rear-admiral Drake's making the island, on the 30th, he discovered the enemy's fleet, of 27 sail, to leeward, between him and the land. He immediately dispatched his swiftest frigates to inform Sir George Rodney of what had passed, as well as of his own return; and arrived in sight of Carlisle bay on the 2d of June.

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In the mean time, the French had landed their troops, to the number of 3000 regulars; whilst, according to the governor's public account, the whole force that could be collected for the defence of the island, including regulars, militia, and seamen, amounted only to 427 whites, of all forts, who held arms in their hands; but to these were added a small party of forty armed negroes, who behaved with undaunted courage on some very desperate service.

After some attempts to impede the progress of the enemy, Governor Ferguson, with the regulars and militia, retired to a post called Concordia, which is an high, strong situation, commanding both sides of the island, where they were invested as closely as the nature of the ground would admit; the French general having in vain endeavoured to terrify the militia into a desertion of their arms, by threatening plunder and confiscation to their plantations, if they did not, in a short given time, return to them.

The spirit and patriotism shewn by the planters in general, during this unequal contest, is highly deserving of praise; but the extraordinary instances of magnanimity afforded by individuals, claims particular notice. On the first advance of the enemy, and dispute about posts, Mr. Collow generously proposed to the governor to set fire to his own canes, in order to distress them on their march, and to impede their progress through a difficult and narrow country. During the siege of Concordia, Mr. Law, understanding that the governor was unwilling to destroy his dwelling-house, and the adjoining building, although they afforded some cover to the enemy, not only made the proposal himself to have them burned, but carried it immediately into execution, under their fire, being assisted only by his own negroes, who suffered not a little in the conflict: and when the garrison were retired to their last strong hold and fastness, the way to which was extremely narrow, rugged, and utterly unknown to the enemy, neither the threats of immediate destruction to his property, nor of instant death to himself, could, in any degree, force him to the task of conducting the French army on their way to find the brave and patriot band that had devoted itself to the defence of the island.

A large reinforcement now arrived from Martinico with the Marquis de Bouillé, accompanied by the whole French fleet, under the Count de Grasse. The island troops, therefore, were now so closely pressed on all sides, that very little hopes remained of their being able to maintain their ground; more especially as they had received intelligence that the body of forces intended for their succour, under the care of Admiral Drake, had been obliged to put back, to avoid the very superior power of the French fleet. But, deprived as they were of all reasonable hopes of succour, they do not seem to have been discouraged. Resolving to hold out to the last extremity, they now prepared to quit the place they had hitherto so bravely defended, but which could be no longer maintained, and retreated to a post on the main ridge, where a few huts had been built, and some ammunition and provisions previously lodged, for that purpose. This retreat was so well conducted, that the place was evacuated at one in the morning of the first of June, and notwithstanding the near situation of the enemy, the Marquis de Bouillé was so totally ignorant of the manœuvre, that he sent a flag soon after day-break to summon the garrison to surrender.

The French general, enraged at the escape of an enemy whom he had considered as in his hands, and still more provoked through the apprehension of the war being protracted, from that enemy's getting into a difficult country and an impracticable post, he began to depart from those principles of liberal contest and amiable lenity which had hitherto distinguished his conduct. He did not fail to order an immediate pursuit of the garrison; but finding his troops overcome by the heat, while the fugitives were yet four miles before him, and that he could

not

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1781 not even procure any person who would conduct his army through the strong country and intricate ways which they had to pass, he determined to make terror unite with force in shortening a business which promised, otherwise, not only to become extremely troublesome as well as tedious, but which might, in the issue, obstruct those great objects which the French fleet had in view. He accordingly ordered two capital plantations which were at hand to be destroyed; and finding that their destruction did not produce the desired effect, he threatened to renew the same orders at the expiration of every four hours, until the island should be surrendered. Governor Ferguson still wished to protract the defence; but perceiving it to be impossible to prevent the inhabitants from making a surrender, he, at length, thought it most prudent, though he at first refused to concur in any capitulation, to interpose in making the best terms for the island, which he could possibly obtain under the circumstances of it. The conditions were extremely favourable and advantageous: those of Dominica were laid as the ground work by the governor; and though they differed in some points, the inhabitants were of opinion that Tobago had the advantage, in this particular, of its sister island.

While the French were thus employed in the West Indies, their allies, the Spaniards, were endeavouring to recover those provinces on the continent of North America, which they had lost in the preceding war. Don Bernardo de Galvez, governor of Louisiana, had, in the two last years, been too successful against the British settlements on the Mississippi, and the town and fort of Mobile. These successes, and the consequent reduction of General Campbell's small force, naturally extended his views to the taking of Pensacola, and thereby completing the conquest of the province.

After some unsuccessful attempts in the last year, which had failed in their commencement, Don Galvez went himself to the Havannah, in order to forward, and take upon him the command of a great expedition from thence, which was intended for the beginning of the present. Fortune seemed at first to smile on Pensacola; but, unluckily, no means were, or probably could be afforded, to profit of the occasion. A violent hurricane had almost ruined the Spanish fleet. Four capital ships, besides others of different denominations, were totally lost, and all on board perished. The loss of lives were estimated at above two thousand. The remainder of the shattered fleet put back to the Havannah, several of them being dismasted and greatly shattered. The critical arrival of four store ships from Spain during their absence, enabled them to refit speedily; and knowing there was no British naval force in the way to oppose them, without waiting till the whole fleet was in condition, they dispatched five sail of the line, with several smaller vessels of war, to conduct Don Galvez, with between 7,000 and 8,000 land forces, on the expedition. This armament arrived before Pensacola on the ninth of March in this year, and was followed soon after by Don Solano, with the remainder of the fleet, the whole amounting to 15 sail of the line.

The principal strength of the place was in the defence of the harbour; for while that was maintained, the enemy would not only be exposed to great difficulties and disadvantages in their landing, but afterwards, in the covering and carrying on of their approaches; and which would be still too distant from the works to produce much effect. But the land batteries were not sufficient to guard the entrance, without some naval support; and that which they now had was weak indeed, consisting only of two sloops, or other small vessels of war. These, however, gallantly seconded the batteries, and both together gave much trouble and caused no small delay to the enemy. Their vast superiority of force, when it could be brought properly to bear, was, however, irresistible. The passage was, accordingly, forced,—the landing effected,—

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1781 ed,—the ground broken,—and the siege commenced in form by sea and land. The garrison was weak, and composed of almost all sorts of men. Detachments from, or rather the remains of different British regiments; Maryland and Pennsylvania loyalists; some of the German troops of Waldeck; together with sailors, marines, inhabitants and negroes; and before the place was closely invested, a few Indians formed the motley assemblage, whose lot it was to defend Pensacola against such a formidable force.

It was, certainly, much to the honour of General Campbell, the governor, that there was not the smallest discordance in such a various garrison; and it was no less praise-worthy to themselves, that the whole behaved bravely, patiently and obediently through every part of the siege. It is also proper to add, that the captains, officers and crews of the two royal sloops of war, after burning their vessels, bore a distinguished part in defending the fort. Indeed every part of the defence was vigorous; and, notwithstanding the weakness of the garrison, some well directed sallies were gallantly made and successfully executed. In the first week of May, the besiegers had done nothing that promised a speedy attainment of their object. They were, however, by no means slow in advancing their works, and the fate of the place appeared to be inevitable. But it would still have cost them much more time and trouble to have become masters of it, if an untoward accident had not frustrated the hopes of the besieged.

The principal defence of the place consisted in a strong advanced redoubt, by which it was covered, and which commanded the narrow approach to it on the land side. This was accordingly supported to the last, which had been hitherto done with so much spirit and resolution, that the works had suffered less than could possibly have been expected. The accidental fall of a bomb near the door of the magazine belonging to the redoubt, and which lay under its center, determined the fate of Pensacola. The bursting of the bomb forced open the door, set fire to the powder within, and, in an instant, the whole body of the redoubt presented nothing but an heap of rubbish. Of about 100 men who suffered by this explosion, three parts lost their lives, and the fourth were miserably maimed and wounded. Two flank works, however, still remained entire; and, by the extraordinary presence of mind and intrepidity of the officers who commanded in these, and the skillful use they made of their artillery, the besiegers, who rushed on to take advantage of the confusion, and to storm the place, were, in their first onset, repulsed. By this brave exertion, time was obtained to carry off the wounded, and such pieces of artillery as were not buried in the ruins: but the enemy soon after bringing up their whole force to attack the flank redoubts, they were of necessity abandoned.

The enemy, at length, made an appearance of advancing to storm the body of the place; but the state of preparation they perceived, induced them to relinquish the design. They, however, derived such advantages from the possession of the ruined redoubt, that the place was no longer tenable; for they commanded some of the principal batteries so effectually with their small arms, that the soldiers and seamen could no longer stand to their guns. In these circumstances, and without the most distant hope of relief, it would have been madness to prolong the defence. It may, however, be proper to observe, that in this state of imminent danger, and with all the horrors of approaching destruction before them, not a single word, concerning a surrender, was heard in the garrison. An honourable capitulation was obtained by Mr. Chester, the governor of the province, and Major General Campbell; and that was all that could have been hoped or expected. The place was delivered up on the ninth of May, which was two months from the first appearance of the enemy before it. Thus fell the pro-

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1781 vince of West Florida, which had been considered as one of the principal acquisitions obtained for Great Britain by the treaty of Paris.

During the transactions which agitated Europe and America, the British empire in the East was harrassed with no common vicissitudes of fortune. The discontents which we have already stated to have arisen in the East Indies, in consequence of the establishment of the supreme court at Calcutta, were accompanied with other very alarming circumstances, which caused the affairs of the East India Company to be in a very critical and unsettled state. The servants of the company, who presided over the possessions of Great Britain in that rich and extensive quarter of the globe, were, at this time, involved in a contest with the Mahrattas, who are the only people of Indostan that were not effectually subdued, or who did not unanimously submit to the government, and acknowledge allegiance as vassals to the throne of the Mogul. The celebrated Hyder Ally, one of the greatest politicians and warriors ever known in India, had also been engaged in a war with the Mahrattas; but, afterwards, made peace and joined in a confederacy against the English. He complained, and we are afraid with some reason, that the latter had not kept their treaties with him; it was, at least, very evident, that the company's servants had not adopted those methods to keep on amicable terms with him, which a wise policy required. Hyder Ally, Regent of the kingdom of Mysore, was originally a soldier of fortune. He rose, by degrees, from a low rank, to the supreme command of the Rajah's army; and, on the death of that Prince, imprisoned his son, whom he destined to succeed him on the throne, and seized the reins of government, assuming the title of guardian to the young Prince. Hyder Ally possessed an extensive, valuable and well regulated country; he was able to bring into the field a very numerous and well disciplined army; his revenues were great, and he was no less attentive to the payment than the discipline of his forces. At the close of the year 1779, his military force was computed to consist of 70,000 infantry, of which 20,000 were in regular battalions; 30,000 cavalry, of which 2,000 were Abyssinian horse that constantly attended his person; 10,000 Carnatic horse, well trained; 400 Europeans; and 100 pieces of cannon, which were worked by Europeans. He possessed great courage and abilities; and it appeared, that his conduct in his civil capacity, has been supported by a degree of political address, unequalled by any Asiatic power that had yet appeared in Indostan. Monsieur Bellecombe, at Pondicherry, had kept up a constant correspondence, and left no arts untried to engage him in the interest of the French; in which object his efforts were but too successful.

In the month of July, 1780, Hyder Ally broke into the Carnatic with a very large army, and made a considerable devastation in that country. A short time previous to this irruption, intelligence was dispatched from Mauritius, that it was intended by the French to send to Hyder a considerable reinforcement of troops and a supply of military stores, to enable him to ruin the Carnatic, and to take advantage of the supine conduct of our East India Company's servants in that quarter.

It appears, indeed, that, at this time, there was a very criminal negligence in the government of Madras, respecting the preparations necessary to be made for opposing the progress of Hyder Ally, of whose hostile and alarming designs they had received very sufficient information. On the seventh of September, Lieutenant Colonel Baillie, with a detachment of 300 European infantry, some artillery, three battalions of sepoy, and ten pieces of cannon, was attacked by Tippoo Saib, the son of Hyder Ally, whom he defeated. Previous to this engagement Hyder himself had laid siege to Arcot, the chief town of the Carnatic; but, after some

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1781 some fruitless days, thought proper to relinquish that expedition. Lieutenant Colonel Baillie being informed, that Hyder, with the main body of his forces, had got between him and Major General Sir Hector Munro, who commanded the grand British army, thought proper to halt where he was, and immediately dispatched several letters by different routes to that General, informing him of his situation, and entreating him to make such a motion with the army under his command as might effect their junction. The measures, however, adopted for this purpose, were not of the most expeditious nature, though a detachment was sent to his assistance; but before he could complete his object of forming a junction with the grand army, he was attacked by Hyder Ally on the 10th of September. This action lasted several hours, and this handful of men, under the command of Colonel Baillie, not only sustained themselves with amazing resolution against the infinitely superior enemy, but would have gained the victory, if the accidental and unfortunate blowing up of some tumbrils of ammunition in the center of the British lines, had not effected more than Hyder Ally's prodigious army had been able to do. Though the destruction of men was great from this accident, the total loss of ammunition was still more dreadful to the survivors. Tippoo Saib instantly caught the moment of advantage, and, without waiting for orders, fell with the utmost rapidity, at the head of the Myfore and Carnatic cavalry, into the broken square of British troops, which had not yet time in any degree to recover its order or form; and the cavalry being speedily followed by the French corps, and by the first line of infantry, the fate of that gallant band was no longer doubtful. All the Europeans were either cut to pieces or taken prisoners, and upwards of 2,000 sepoy are said to have lain dead on the field of battle. In this engagement Colonel Baillie and several officers were made prisoners. Colonel Fletcher and the Captains Rumfey and Powell were killed. This victory, however, according to the account given by an European resident, at Hyder's court, who was present at the action, was very dearly purchased. The slaughter fell almost entirely upon the best troops of the enemy, and was so immense, that if a particular account of the loss could have been obtained, it would have exceeded all bounds of conjecture or belief.

On receiving intelligence of this unfortunate action, a very ardent impatience to revenge their loss, appeared in the army commanded by Sir Hector Munro; but the General thought it imprudent to indulge their ardour. He was conscious of the weak state of his army,—the diminution it had suffered from the detachment he had sent to the assistance of Colonel Baillie, and which was now entirely lost;—his total want of provisions,—his entire deficiency of cavalry, and above all, the certain destruction of Madras and all the British settlements in the Carnatic, should any enterprize, in the present posture of affairs, be attended with misfortune. From these considerations, he resolved to make a retreat, though much to the dissatisfaction of the troops; and he accordingly marched to the neighbourhood of Madras, where he was now determined to wait for the reinforcements that were on their way thither, before he entered upon any offensive operations.

The consequences of the late defeat were, in the mean time, very alarming. The dissensions in the presidency became daily more violent; and its authority was so much diminished, that a body of sepoy openly revolted; and the countries in subjection to it, retained so little attachment to its government, that the greater part of the inhabitants were in the interests of Hyder Ally.

That Prince had renewed the siege of Arcot, the capital of the Nabob of that name, which, from the vigour with which it was carried on, and the disaffection of those who were to defend

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1781 send it, to their sovereign, the antient ally of our India Company, that Hyder took the place in the beginning of November, with an immense quantity of warlike stores, which fell into the hands of the enemy at a time when he was beginning to want them, and when they were equally necessary to those for whom they were provided.

Such was the situation of affairs when Sir Eyre Coote, who had been requested by the Supreme Council of Bengal to take upon him the command of the army in the Carnatic, arrived at Madras with a reinforcement of British troops. Indeed, the unaccountable neglect which marked every department of administration there, seemed to be rather the effect of some domineering fatality, than either of weakness or indolence. The General himself observes in his letters to the directors, as well as to some of the principal officers of state, that the same inactivity and bad policy, which had operated in not collecting the troops,—in the defect of every kind of preparation,—in leaving the passes open to Hyder's entrance,—and in many other ruinous instances, were still prevalent at the time of his arrival; and that what ought to have been their first care, lay as much neglected as if no enemy had been near. That even the necessary arrangements for the security of Fort St. George, the very foundation of our existence on that coast, had not been made; that no pains had been taken to recruit the shattered condition of the very small army which remained for their defence; that the field artillery requisite for a campaign, was so far from being in readiness, that the carriages were then making up: that the troops were dispirited,—the sepoy's deserting,—the country desolated,—the inhabitants treacherous,—all communications cut off,—their provisions consumed, and their resources exhausted. That the Nabob, so far from being able to give any assistance in this exigency, was himself without men, money, or influence, and looked up to the company to support his interests and credit. To this was added the increasing superiority of the enemy, arising from his good policy, as well as the power of his arms; for that Hyder Ally had taken every measure which could occur to the most experienced General, to distress us, and to render himself formidable; and that his conduct, in his civil capacity, had been supported by a degree of political address, unequalled by any power that had yet appeared in Hindostan. Such was the enemy, with whom the East India Company were now engaged in such an arduous contest; and such was part of a picture of the affairs of the Carnatic, drawn upon the spot, at the close of the year 1780, by Sir Eyre Coote.

Among the many good consequences which flowed from the arrival of that able officer, to take the command of the Carnatic, the unanimity which, from that moment, prevailed in the government, was among the first. The Council were unanimous in his support, and wisely committed the whole conduct and management of the war, without reserve, into his hands. An appearance of vigour, in spite of actual weakness, and all the wretched circumstances of affairs, accordingly took place in every department, and the enemy, impressed with a very just idea of the General's fame and great military talents, marked their future conduct with great and unaccustomed precaution.

Few generals ever had more difficulties to encounter, or a greater stake depending, than Sir Eyre Coote at this juncture. His whole force did not exceed 7,000 men, and the enemy he was to encounter commanded an army consisting of near 200,000. The British General, however, in the beginning of this year, moved from the encampment that had been so long occupied at Madras, and succeeded in forcing Hyder Ally to abandon Wandewash, which he was then besieging. After forcing the enemy to relinquish his original enterprize, the next important service was the securing Pondicherry. After the reduction of that settlement two years

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before, the French, who remained there, had been treated with the most exemplary lenity; their private property had been left untouched, and all their officers, both civil and military, had been indulged with every kind of liberty, on giving their parole. But the unexpected successes of Hyder Ally, and the expectations of the speedy arrival of a powerful squadron and considerable military reinforcement from France, had wrought such a change in their behaviour, that they could not conceal their disposition to avail themselves of the first opportunity of breaking through their engagements with the English; in short, such was their conduct, that it was thought necessary to deprive them of their arms, to seize magazines which they had contrived to collect, and to destroy all the boats in their possession. The necessity of these measures was soon justified by the arrival of a French squadron off Pondicherry, in full confidence of being supplied with water and other necessaries; but which was obliged to depart in great distress, for want of small craft to convey them on board.

In the mean time, Sir Edward Hughes had performed great service on the Malabar coast towards the close of the year, by the destruction of Hyder Ally's shipping in his own ports of Calicut and Mangalore, and thereby blasting his favourite hope of becoming a formidable maritime power.

Sir Eyre Coote's force being too weak to encourage adventure, and Hyder too cautious to hazard much without an absolute necessity, nothing of consequence took place for several months between the two armies. Such a state of things, however, could not be lasting. Hyder having made preparations for the siege of Trichinopoly, the English General marched with the army to Porto Novo, as well to frustrate that design, as to repress his depredation on the side of Tanjour, and the southern provinces. In short, on the first of July an engagement took place between the two armies, which lasted from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon. The very superior skill and great experience of Sir Eyre Coote and his officers, and the bravery and discipline of his soldiers, were put, on this day, to a glorious trial;—it was not without the highest efforts of generalship and intrepidity, that the enemy was obliged at length to give way on all sides, after having been foiled in every attempt, with a terrible slaughter of their bravest troops, and the loss of Hyder Ally's principal general and his best officers. But complete as this victory was, many of its advantages were lost from the victors being unpossessed of the means of pursuit; as the want of cavalry gave the enemy an opportunity of carrying off his cannon and baggage, and to make good his retreat; while Sir Eyre Coote was forced to content himself with remaining master of the field. Several other engagements took place, in which the British troops were uniformly victorious, and the troops of Hyder Ally discouraged by a succession of defeats, no longer possessed a spirit to second the exertions of their leader.

Such was the surprising change, which the superior conduct and military talents of Sir Eyre Coote, seconded by some excellent officers, and supported by the unparalleled efforts of a small, but glorious army, had, in a short time, produced in the affairs of the Carnatic; and such were the leading events of one of the most arduous campaigns recorded in the annals of the world.

But previous to this favourable change in the company's affairs, a motion was made by Lord North, "That a committee of secrecy should be appointed, to enquire into the causes of the war now subsisting in the Carnatic; and of the present condition of the British possessions in those parts; and to report the same with their observations thereon." Though the acknowledged bad conduct of affairs in India, had rendered enquiries on that subject rather popular,

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1781 popular, the proposal of a secret committee met with much objection, and occasioned a very spirited debate. The subject was certainly of the first importance, and, according to the appearances of the moment, the existence of the British commerce and possessions in the East, depended upon the spirit and policy of the measures which were then to be pursued. Dispatch was most essentially necessary in this enquiry, and a secret committee would certainly best answer that purpose; the objects of enquiry were likewise of a nature which required secrecy in the committee. Besides, they were by no means of a judicial kind; it was not intended that this committee should decide on the conduct of any man; their business was to report facts,—and if those facts should appear to the House as grounds of accusation against any individual, he would then have an opportunity of defending himself, and the proceedings, of course, must be public. The House might also, if it should think it necessary, call for the minutes of the committee,—a circumstance which seems to do away the idea of any bad consequences arising from the proposed secrecy. The minister's motion was, however, at length carried, and the committee, besides being possessed of the usual powers to demand papers and examine witnesses, were authorised to sit in the India House; to adjourn from time to time, and from place to place, as it suited their convenience; and to meet and pursue their enquiries during the recesses of Parliament.

The terms upon which the minister had some time ago proposed a renewal of the East India Company's charter, were deemed by the company so highly injurious to the rights, and so exceedingly prejudicial to the interests of that body, that all negotiation was broken off, and the business lay entirely dormant during the two last years. We have already related, that in the preceding session, the House of Commons passed a vote for giving the three years notice decreed by act of Parliament to the Company, previous to the dissolution of their charter, that the capital stock or debt of 4,200,000*l.* which was owing them by the public, should be fully discharged, according to the power of redemption, by the 5th of April, 1783.

The situation of public affairs certainly required that matters should be brought to some conclusion with the Company,—and in order to accelerate their motions, the minister held out the following propositions to the consideration of the House of Commons:—whether it would be proper for the crown to take the territorial possessions and revenues entirely into its own hands, or to leave them to the management of a company? whether it would be proper to throw the trade to India entirely open, or to grant a monopoly of it to another company? or, if it should be thought fitting to grant a new charter to the present company, he proposed that it should be only for a short term, along with a considerable participation, to the public, in their profits and revenues: he further proposed, that a tribunal should be established here for the purpose of controuling and judging of the management of affairs in India, and for punishing such servants of the Company as should be convicted of having abused their power; that all dispatches received from India by the Directors, should be communicated to the Secretary of State, and all dispatches shewn to him before they were sent. These propositions concluded with a motion, that it was the opinion of that committee, that three-fourths of the surplus of the net profits of the East India Company, ever since the Company's bond debt was reduced to 1,500,000*l.* and the Company's dividend had been eight per cent. per annum, belong to the public,—and that 600,000*l.* in lieu thereof, and in discharge of all claims on the part of the public, be paid into his Majesty's Exchequer by installments, in such manner, and such times, as shall be agreed on.

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This subject necessarily brought out every argument that could be employed on the different questions naturally arising from the consideration of the rights of the Company, the claims of the public, and the interference of government. Nor was the business less agitated in the Company itself. On the 21st of May, a General Court of Proprietors was held at the East India House, in order to take into consideration the propositions submitted by the Directors for the basis of an agreement between Government and the Company, when some new matter was started, which arose from certain words in the first proposition, that all the Company's present chartered privileges shall be preserved entire, so far as is consistent with the rights of the crown *and legislature*. It was proposed to leave these last words out; and Mr. Rous, the counsel of the Company, was called upon for his opinion, who declared, without the least reserve, that the rights of the legislature were novel rights: that the rights of the crown were distinct; and so were those of the Company derived from, and dependent on, those of the crown: but he did not hesitate to give a most decided opinion, that the law and constitution knew of no rights of the legislature independent of the known privileges of Parliament, which had nothing to do in the present case. The words, therefore, *and legislature* were struck out. The proposition of the General Court of East India Proprietors were as follows:

“ That all the East India Company's present charter rights be preserved to them entire, so far as is consistent with the rights of the crown;—that their exclusive trade be prolonged for ten years, from March the first, besides the three years notice to be given according to the act of George II. and that, in order to alleviate, to the utmost of their power, the public burthen, the Directors are empowered to pay into the Exchequer 600,000*l.* on condition of receiving in return bills on his Majesty's Exchequer, which, in case of any unexpected exigencies on the part of the Company, the commissioners of customs and excise should receive as cash for the Company's accruing duties; such bills not to bear interest, or to be brought to market like other bills.” But these propositions, when they were laid before the House of Commons, were opposed by the minister, and set aside by the parliamentary motion which we have already stated. In short, Government and the Directors could not come to any conclusion in the business. Courts of proprietors were frequently held, and, in one instance, they refused to confirm an agreement which had been entered into by the Directors. In general, the terms held out by Government were considered as so unjust, that it was more than once proposed in those courts, as the best plan the Company could adopt, to dispose of all their property at home and abroad, and putting an end to the political existence, rest their title to it on a legal decision.

In the mean time, the bad news which had arrived from India, and the dubious state of the Company abroad, could not but affect the face of affairs at home, and operate considerably upon the measures and transactions on both sides. The view of obtaining a large sum of money, for the renewal of their charter, from the Company, was, in the present state of things, totally closed. The minister, therefore, brought in a temporary bill, allowing the Company for a limited time, to continue their exclusive trade to India; to manage the territorial acquisitions and possessions in Asia; and to receive the revenues arising therefrom. The future provisions of this bill, though they tended to establish a very great participation to the public in the revenues and profits of the Company, were not much controverted, as the shortness of its duration would afford an opportunity for making such alterations, as future circumstances and opinions might suggest. But the retrospective effect of this bill, in compelling the Company to pay the demand of 632,000*l.* made by Government, under a claim of participation

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On the 6th of June, the House of Commons went into a committee, on a petition from the Governor and Company of the Bank of England. The minister stated the purport of it to be, that their charter expiring in the year 1785, they applied to Parliament for a renewal of it for 21 years from that period, for which they proposed, as a valuable consideration, to lend to Government 2,000,000*l.* for three years, at three per cent. The interest to be provided for by the sinking fund; 1,000,000*l.* to be issued on the 15th of November following, and 1,000,000*l.* on the 15th of the succeeding February. This offer was considered by Government as fair and equitable both for the public and the Bank, and the money was to be applied towards paying off so much of the navy debt. The proposition was opposed, as being unfavourable to the public; but after much debate, it was, at length, agreed to, and a bill was prepared accordingly, and in due course received the royal assent.

The hope of conciliation in some manner or form with America, and, consequently, of withdrawing her from new connections, was not yet totally extinct; and, under this impression, Colonel Hartley, one of the Knights of the Shire for the county of Berks, moved for leave to bring in a bill, to vest the crown with sufficient powers to treat, consult, and finally agree upon the means of restoring peace with the provinces of North America; but this motion was rejected on a division, by a majority of 106 to 72.

On the 18th of July, the session was closed by a speech from the throne, in which his Majesty declared to both Houses, that although the business of the session had required a longer attendance than might have been consistent with their private convenience, he was persuaded that they looked back with satisfaction on the time they had employed in a faithful discharge of their duty to their country, in the present arduous and critical state of public affairs. The zeal and ardour, he said, which they had shewn for the honour of his crown, their firm and steady support of a just cause, and the great efforts which they had made, to enable him to surmount all the difficulties of this complicated war, must convince the world, that the antient spirit of the British nation was not abated or diminished. That, in the midst of these difficulties, they had formed regulations for the better management and the improvement of the revenue; they had given additional strength and stability to public credit; and their deliberations on the affairs of the East India Company, had terminated in such measures as would, it was trusted, produce great and essential advantages to these kingdoms. His Majesty added, that peace was the earnest wish of his heart; but he had too firm a reliance on the spirit and resources of the nation, the powerful assistance of his Parliament, and the protection of a just and all-powerful Providence, to accept it upon any other terms or conditions, than such as might consist with the honour and dignity of his crown, and the permanent interest and security of his people. The Parliament was then prorogued to the thirteenth of September following.

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The success of Spain in America, did not compensate for the constant disappointment of all its efforts against Gibraltar. The siege of this important fortress was continued at a prodigious expence, but without making the least progress. Nothing had been accomplished by the fleet and army that invested it, but to reduce the garrison to great straits, for want of a proper quantity of provisions; but this inconvenience was supported with a degree of ready fortitude equally astonishing and meritorious.

From the departure of Admiral Rodney in the middle of February, 1780, the garrison waited till the month of October, without making any alteration in the usual rations; but as the winter was approaching, the apprehension of the danger and difficulty that might attend the sending supplies, at that time of the year, induced Governor Elliot to reduce the allowance of bread and of meat, and to make some other regulations necessary for enforcing the strictest œconomy in the article of food.

In the beginning of the present year, provisions began to be extremely scarce, from the expenditure of almost all that remained in the public stores, and the indefatigable vigilance of the enemy's cruizers, in cutting off the communication by sea. About the middle of February, the town bakers left off work for the want of flour, and many of the poorer people wanted bread.

Of the most common and indispensable necessities of life, bad ship biscuit, full of worms, was sold at 1s. per pound; flour, in not much better condition, at the same price; old dried peas at a third more; the worst salt, half dirt, the sweepings of ships bottoms and storehouses, at 8d.; old Irish salt butter, at 2s. 6d.; the worst sort of brown sugar brought the same price; and English farthing candles were sold at 6d. a piece: but fresh provisions bore still more exorbitant prices. Even when the arrival of vessels from the Mediterranean opened a market, turkies sold at 3l. 12s. a piece; sucking pigs at 2l. 2s.; ducks at 10s. 6d.; and small hens sold at 9s. a piece. A guinea was refused for a calf's pluck; and 1l. 7s. asked for an ox's head. To heighten every other distress, the firing was so nearly exhausted, as scarcely to afford a sufficiency for the indispensable culinary purposes; so that all the linen of the town and garrison was washed in cold water, and worn without ironing. This want was most severely felt in the wet season; which, notwithstanding the general warmth of the climate, is exceedingly cold at Gibraltar.

The distresses of the garrison were well known in England, as well as the absolute necessity of relieving them without delay: but the numerous demands of assistance from the various quarters of the world where the war was carrying on, rendered this service, however indispensable, a matter of the greatest difficulty. So deeply, however, were the interests and honour of Great Britain engaged in the relief of this important fortress, that to effect it was one of the first objects of Government in the beginning of the present year; and the grand fleet, under the conduct of the Admirals Darby, Digby, and Sir Lockhart Ross, was fitted out early for this service. It sailed from Portsmouth on the 13th of March, with the great East and West India convoys. The necessity of taking in provisions, detained it some time at Corke, in Ireland; from whence it proceeded with the whole fleet. When the merchantmen separated from it, to continue their respective voyages, the English Admiral steered directly for Cadiz, where he saw the Spanish fleet, after all the threats and boasts of Spain, lying peaceably at anchor, without the smallest appearance of any intention to interrupt the destined relief of Gibraltar.

Nothing

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Nothing could be more grievous to Spain than this event, nor more mortifying to her pride than the disgrace which, after all her boasting, her navy now suffered in the eyes of all Europe. She had set her heart so entirely on the recovery of Gibraltar, that she scarcely seemed to have another object in the war. She lavished her treasures, with an unsparing hand, in that pursuit. The labour of the nation was exhausted in the stupendous works which she raised before the place, and the whole naval and military force of the state, and its resources of every sort, seemed directed to that single object. The batteries were mounted with guns of the heaviest metal, and with mortars of the largest dimensions; the number of the former amounted to near two hundred, and of the latter to near fourscore. The cannonade and bombardment, from this vast arrangement of artillery, was dreadful beyond description. It was computed, by the artillery officers and engineers in the garrison, that, during more than three weeks from the first attack, the enemy continued regularly to expend, at least, 1,000 barrels of gunpowder, of 100 pounds weight each, and to fire from 4,000 to 5,000 shot and shells, in every 24 hours, upon the fortress. No powers of supply could long support this expenditure: after discharging 75,000 shot, and 25,000 shells, in this course of firing, it was then lowered to about 600 of both in the 24 hours, on which reduced scale it was continued for several weeks.

The narrow extent of the spot upon which this shower of destruction fell, was too much exposed to escape its effects. The houses, in number about 500, were mostly destroyed, and the inhabitants, computed at upwards of 3,000, experienced every hardship that could arise from the destruction of their dwellings: they were forced to take shelter at a distance under tents, with such accommodations as could be contrived in such a scene of confusion and horror. On the departure of the fleet, many of them took that opportunity of returning to England, for which purpose they were allowed a free passage, and supplied with provisions for the voyage.

Towards the close of the summer, however, the fury of the Spaniards seemed to be exhausted before Gibraltar. The works were found, by experience, superior to all their efforts, and the town being destroyed, there seemed to be nothing further to be done by the repetition of bombardment. Their gun-boats still continued to be troublesome at night, which served to keep the garrison in perpetual alarms; but the Governor having received some cannon of a very long bore, which were sent for the purpose from England, had them fixed on the nearest batteries, so that their shot reached to the very center of the Spanish camp: and it being observed, that these were fired in return for the attacks of the boats, the Spanish commanders found it convenient to restrain the one, in order to obviate the mischief and confusion occasioned by the other.

By the latter end of November, the besiegers had, with immense toil and expence, brought their works to that state of perfection they intended. The best engineers in France and Spain had united their respective abilities upon this occasion, and both kingdoms possessed the most sanguine expectations of their success. At this moment, General Elliot meditated a blow which was destined to avert their designs, and to produce a total destruction of the fruits of so much time, skill, and persevering labour.

On the 27th of November, a most spirited sally was made by the garrison, to storm and destroy the whole of the advanced works of the Spaniards. The detachment, which was appointed for this enterprize, was formed in three columns, and marched out at the setting of the moon about three o'clock in the morning. The columns were severally composed of an advanced corps, a body of pioneers, artillery men carrying combustibles, and a sustaining corps,

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1781 corps, with a reserve at the rear. The pioneers of the left column were seamen. Nothing ever exceeded the silence and order of the march, the vigour and spirit of the attack, or the nice and exact combination of all its parts. The whole front of the Spanish works were attacked, at the same moment, with such irresistible fury, that the enemy, after a scattering fire, which was of no long continuance, gave way on all sides, and abandoned their stupendous works with the utmost precipitation. The pioneers and artillery men exerted themselves in such a wonderful manner, and spread their fire with such amazing rapidity, that, in half an hour, two mortar batteries of 10 thirteen inch mortars, and three batteries of 6 guns each, with all the lines of approach, communication and traverse, were in flames, and shortly reduced to ashes. The mortars and cannon were spiked, and their beds, carriages and platforms destroyed. The magazines blew up one after another in the course of the conflagration. The astonished Spaniards, perceiving that all opposition would be fruitless, offered no other resistance than an ill-directed fire of round and grape shot from the forts of St. Barbara, St. Phillip, and the batteries on the lines, and remained in their camp the tame spectators of the destruction which they could not prevent. The whole service was performed, and the detachment returned to the garrison, before day break. Two hours were found sufficient to complete this active, important and glorious exploit.

One of the first objects in contemplation among the mercantile classes in Holland, was the interception of the fleet that was conveying to England the spoils of St. Eustatius. Preparations were accordingly made for that purpose; but they were not ready at the time proposed; and fortune threw their rich prize into other hands. The French Admiral, Monsieur de la Motte Piquet, availing himself of the British fleet, under Admiral Darby, being engaged in the relief of Gibraltar, sailed from Brest, and, on the second of May, fell in with the St. Eustatius convoy, of which he captured more than half; the remainder took shelter in the nearest ports of Ireland.

A secret expedition to a very remote part of the world, was supposed to have been, for some time, in the contemplation of the British ministry. The reports of great commotions in Peru and some other of the Spanish dominions in America, made it generally imagined, that the South Seas would have been the destination of such an armament. It seems, indeed, probable that the numerous exigencies of the war could alone have delayed the prosecution of a design, which promised to be attended with the most fatal consequences to the enemy.

At this time, the design was not only revived but adopted. A small squadron, whose objects and destination were kept secret, under the conduct of Commodore Johnstone, with a body of land forces, commanded by General Meadows, accompanied the grand fleet on its departure for the relief of Gibraltar. The object of this armament was undoubtedly changed in consequence of the Dutch war, which occasioned an attempt upon the Cape of Good Hope to be substituted, in the place of the larger field of South America. France being almost as much interested as Holland itself, in the preservation of this place, readily exerted itself for the protection of it against the designs of Great Britain. M. de Suffrein, an officer of great courage, sailed immediately with five ships of the line, beside frigates, and a body of land forces, to oppose the British armament. The French commander came up with the English fleet at the Cape de Verd Islands, and attacked it whilst lying under the protection of the Portuguese flag, in Port Praya, in the island of St. Jago; several outward bound Indiamen being also under the Commodore's convoy and then in that port. At the time when the French squadron arrived, which was the 16th of April, 1781, at least 1,500 persons were

absent

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1781 absent from the British fleet, who were engaged in watering, fishing, embarking live cattle, and other necessary occupations; signals were however immediately thrown out for the people ashore to hasten on board, and every preparation was made to receive the enemy. Although the British squadron was completely surprized on this occasion, it stood the attack of a much superior force with a coolness and resolution, at which the French were equally astonished and perplexed, who had promised to themselves an easy victory.—They were, however, beaten off; and one of the East Indiamen, which they had taken, was recaptured.

Having repaired the damages received in this engagement, the British squadron left Port Praya on the 2d of May, on the prosecution of its original plan: and about the middle of June, the Commodore dispatched Captain Pigot, with some of the best sailing frigates and cutters, to proceed towards the southern extremity of Africa, in order, if possible, to obtain some intelligence of the state of the enemy in that quarter. That officer had the good fortune to fall in with, and capture, a large Dutch East India ship, of 1200 tons burthen, which had lately sailed from Soldanha bay, near the Cape, and was laden with stores and provisions, besides 40,000*l.* in bullion, for the island of Ceylon. By this circumstance information was obtained, that M. de Suffrein, with five sail of the line, most of his transports, and a considerable body of troops, had arrived at False Bay on the 21st of June; and that several Dutch East India ships, homeward-bound, but afraid to proceed, were then at anchor in Soldanha Bay, which lies about 14 leagues to the northward of Cape Town and fort.

To explain the cause of their lying at so great a distance from their principal settlement and defence, it may be necessary to observe, that Table Bay, upon which these lie, is not only much smaller, and less convenient than that of Soldanha, but is exceedingly dangerous to shipping during the winds that blow in the summer months. These bad properties attending Table Bay, was the motive of M. de Suffrein's anchoring in False Bay, which lies at the back of that very long and narrow neck of land running far out into the sea, the mountain at whose head, forms what is properly called the Cape. The bottom of this bay lies within about three leagues, by land, of Cape Town, which is situated a little higher up, on the opposite coast, than the junction of the continent with the peninsula, although the passage by sea round the neck, is long, difficult, and dangerous.

The arrival of the French squadron and troops at the Cape, having frustrated the principal design of Commodore Johnstone's expedition, he determined to profit of what was yet within reach, by an attempt upon the Dutch ships in the Bay of Soldanha. This scheme was ably and successfully conducted: of the five ships which were there, he took four; the other was unfortunately burned.—They were all vessels from 1000 to 1100 tons burthen.

The war with Great Britain was by no means a popular act in Spain, and was generally considered rather as a court measure, originating from the influence of French counsels, than as the result of a policy founded on the real interests of that country. The little success, and the immense expence with which it had been hitherto attended, could not but increase the public dissatisfaction; and the court itself seemed, at length, to conceive a jealousy that France had been more attentive to other objects during the war, than to those which were so interesting and so dear to itself. It became necessary, therefore, for the court of Versailles to remove these impressions; and as neither Jamaica nor Gibraltar could afford any such opportunity, for the present, the sequestered island of Minorca, which, from the nature and particular circumstances of the war, was almost cut off from the possibility of succour, could not escape observation, as the object immediately offering for the purpose.

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1781 The formation of this enterprize took place early in the present year, but was for some time retarded by the greatness of the preparations it required. They were not completed till the latter end of June, when M. de Guichen sailed from Brest, at the head of a squadron consisting of the most formidable ships in the French navy: they were joined at Cadiz by 30 Spanish ships of the line, and a large number of transports, carrying a body of 10,000 regular troops.

Great Britain had now so many objects to employ her attention, and they were all of such moment, that a sufficient strength could not be collected in time to prevent the junction and intended movements of the French and Spaniards, at the period and distance at which they were made. The combined powers left Cadiz about the end of July, and landed their forces at Minorca on the 20th of August. Here they were shortly after joined by about 6000 French from Toulon. The joint army of both crowns was entrusted to the command of the Duke de Crillon, a French general of great reputation.

It was the fate of Minorca, at this juncture, to be totally unable to make any effectual resistance against such a powerful enemy. The garrison consisted only of four regiments, two of them British, and two Hanoverian: they were, however, excellent troops, and commanded by two distinguished officers; Lieutenant-General Murray, formerly governor of Quebec, now held the same rank in Minorca, and was seconded by Major-General Draper, who commanded at the conquest of Manilla in the preceding war. But the soldiers were sickly, and from that cause, as well as the smallness of their number, inadequate to the defence that would be necessary against such a multitude of assailants. Hence it was soon foreseen, that the preservation of Minorca would prove a very difficult, if not an impracticable undertaking; especially when the obstructions to all succours were taken into consideration.

The combined fleet was contented with seeing the troops safe into the Mediterranean, and then, trusting them to a small convoy, returned, to the amount of near fifty sail of the line, to cruize at the mouth of the English Channel. Though this was an effectual means of preventing any succour from being sent to Minorca, the enemy had other objects in view: they hoped to intercept some of our great homeward-bound convoys, which were then every day expected; and a very large outward-bound fleet, which was on the point of its departure from Corke, in Ireland, held out a similar temptation. Nor can it be supposed that the general alarm and confusion which it was expected their appearance in the Channel, at so critical a season, would occasion in these kingdoms, was, by any means, overlooked in the design. As the enemy was enabled, from the great number of ships, to stretch across the entrance of the Channel, it was resolved in England, notwithstanding the vast superiority which opposed it, that the naval force then in readiness, consisting of thirty ships of the line, should proceed immediately to sea, in order to the preservation of the expected West India fleet, an object for which it was to encounter every danger. Admiral Darby, who commanded the British fleet, prepared accordingly for the execution of his orders; and the most determined spirit to second him, was manifested by all those who served under him: but he was detained by contrary winds in Torbay till the middle of September; during which time the enemy remained in possession of the sea adjacent to the west of England and the south of Ireland, and occasioned no small alarm for the security of the trade returning from Jamaica, and the other leeward islands. The great outward-bound fleet for America and the West Indies, was not only supposed to be in danger in the open harbour of Corke, but that city itself, which is totally unfortified, and at that time stored with immense quantities of provision, was considered as a very probable object of attack from the combined fleet.

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1781 The wind still confining the British fleet in Torbay, the French and Spanish admirals were tempted, by its inferiority, to attack it in that position; but, after much debate on the subject, that design was laid aside, for the easier task of intercepting the expected fleet from the West Indies. With these intentions, the combined fleet bore away from the Channel; but the weather, very soon after, became so tempestuous, that they were obliged to relinquish their views, and make the best of their way to their respective ports.

In the mean time, the British mercantile fleets arrived safe from every quarter, to the great mortification of France and Spain; as they had employed the utmost exertions to cut off those resources for the prosecution of the war, arising from the prodigious importations of wealth from the transmarine possessions of Great Britain; being conscious that the humiliation of this country could never be effected by any other means than by wounding her commerce.

The war had hitherto languished in Europe, as well as in every other quarter, on the side of Holland. Their fleets were not only in a very bad condition, but they astonished the world by the discovery of a weakness by no means suspected, consisting in a deficiency of seamen, and a total want of naval stores, in both of which they had ever been held to abound beyond any other nation, except England. The vicinity and situation of their ports, even with that state of imperfect preparation in which they now were, proved, however, a very mortifying check upon the naval operations of Great Britain in the course of the year, and prevented some of those vigorous exertions which might have been otherwise made against her other enemies. It became absolutely necessary to keep a squadron in the Downs, as well to watch their motions in general, as to prevent their intercourse with the southern parts of Europe: and it was still more essentially requisite to have such a force in the north seas, as would be capable of ruining their immense commerce on that side, and of effectually protecting our own; including also the farther great object of preventing the possibility of restoring their marine, by cutting off their only sources of every kind of naval supply.

This very important service was committed to the conduct of Admiral Hyde Parker, a veteran commander of established reputation, who sailed from Portsmouth in the beginning of June, with four ships of the line, and one of 50 guns, for the north sea. The Dutch, in the mean time, were employed in equipping a number of their stoutest ships, for the protection of a large fleet of merchantmen bound to the Baltic. The command of them was given to Admiral Zoutman, a resolute and experienced seaman, who sailed from the Texel about the middle of July: his force consisted of eight ships of the line, from 74 to 54 guns, ten frigates, and some other armed vessels; most of their frigates were very large, and carried an uncommon weight of metal. They were also joined by the Charlestown, an American frigate of an extraordinary construction, she being as long and as large as a ship of the line, with several hundred men on board, and thirty-six 42 pounders upon one deck: she took this opportunity of sailing with the Dutch fleet, in order to go north-about, on her way to America.

Admiral Parker was on his return with a large convoy from Elfineur. He had been joined by several frigates since he left Portsmouth, and by the Dolphin of 44 guns; and, in this most critical and dangerous conjuncture, was very timely reinforced by Commodore Keith Stewart, in the Berwick of 74 guns, who had been for some time on the coast of Scotland. The British force consisted of an old 80 gun ship, carrying no heavier metal than a 50, an old 60, that had been discharged, but was lately refitted for service, two of 74, a 64, and a 50; to which the admiral was obliged to add the Dolphin frigate, in order to supply the inequality in number of his line of battle to that of the enemy.

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1781 The hostile fleets came in fight of each other, on the Dogger Bank, very early in the morning of the 5th of August, 1781; when Admiral Parker, perceiving the number and strength of the enemy's frigates, detached the convoy, with orders to keep their wind, sending his own frigates along with them, for their protection; and as soon as this disposition was made, he threw out a general signal for the squadron to chase the enemy. The Dutch were by no means disposed to shun the conflict: they likewise detached their convoy to some distance, when they drew up with great coolness in order of battle, and waited the shock with the utmost composure. None of that manœuvring was practised, on either side, through which the French had eluded the complete decision of so many naval actions. Admiral Parker, in the *Fortitude*, ranged a-breast the Dutch admiral's ship, and the action commenced with the utmost fury and violence on both sides. The cannonade continued, without intermission, for three hours and forty minutes: some of our ships fired between 2000 and 3000 shot each.—The Dutch ships were much superior in weight of metal to the English of the same rates:—This difference, however, was but little considered; but their heavy frigates, as well as the *Charlestown*, having intermixed with their line, took a very effective part in the action, and did considerable mischief, by raking our ships, and firing at their rigging, while closely and desperately engaged with a superior enemy. Such returns were however made, that they paid dearly for their temerity; and the *Charlestown*, among others, suffered so severely, that it was long supposed she had gone down either in, or soon after the action.

At length, both squadrons had received so much damage, that, about noon, they were become equally unmanageable. The British admiral exerted his utmost skill to keep his ships in a line, and to continue the action, but found it impracticable: the Dutch were in the same situation.—The English ships were chiefly wounded in their masts and rigging; but as they fired entirely at the hulls of the enemy, and, by their superior alertness and expedition, discharged a much greater quantity of shot, the Dutch ships were so extremely shattered, that they were with the utmost difficulty kept above water, until they reached, separately, and in the greatest distress, notwithstanding the aid of their numerous frigates, such of their ports as were nearest to them: but the *Hollandia* of 68 guns, and one of their best ships, went down in the night after the engagement; and the danger was so sudden and extreme, that the crew were reduced to the melancholy necessity of abandoning their wounded in quitting the ship.

This was a very bloody action.—The slain and wounded, on board the British squadron, amounted to about 450, among whom were several officers of very superior merit:—The same list, on board the Dutch ships, though endeavoured to be concealed, was well known to exceed a thousand.

Such was the issue of this celebrated engagement; the first that had taken place between the English and the Dutch for upwards of a century. The valour and emulation displayed by both parties, was in no degree inferior to that which had been exerted by their respective ancestors, when contending for the empire of the ocean, in the days of Cromwell and Charles the Second.

The advantage was certainly on the side of the British admiral: he remained, with his squadron, on the place of action after the enemy had quitted it; while the Dutch were obliged to abandon to their own care the merchantmen under their convoy, who were compelled to drop the prosecution of their voyage, and to make the best of their way to their respective ports.

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1781 This was one of the severest disappointments that could have befallen the Dutch; in this fleet were centered the hopes and resources of the mercantile classes, which had been at a vast expence in fitting it out, for its usual destination to the northern parts of Europe: they now saw themselves totally excluded from that principal fund of their commercial opulence, and obliged, to their great mortification, to have recourse to the assistance of France for protection on their own coasts.

On the return of the British squadron to the Nore, the service done to the public by the admiral, was noticed in the most distinguished manner. The King honoured him with a visit, and treated him with those marks of attention and regard to which he was so eminently entitled.

During the remainder of the year, the ports of Holland were completely blocked up, and its trade intercepted from the most beneficial quarters. The Dutch, who had not for a century experienced any of the distresses arising from a naval war, now felt them to a great extent. The commonalty, upon which, of course, it chiefly fell, was loud and ungovernable in its murmurs; and it was for some time imagined, that the hardships under which it laboured, would have produced internal commotions of a dangerous nature: certain it is, that no little alarm was excited, and that the discontents were so general, that suspicions of that kind did not appear entirely void of foundation.

In the summer of this year, the following paper, proposing the intermediation of the King of Sweden between Great Britain and Holland, was presented by Baron Nolken, the Swedish minister resident in London, to Lord Stormont, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

“ The King does not imagine it necessary, at this time, for him to enter into an explanation of the principles which have governed his conduct ever since he ascended the throne of his ancestors. He has been guided by the love of peace; and he could have wished to have seen all the other European powers enjoy that blessing as uninterruptedly as himself. These desires, dictated by his natural sentiments of humanity, have not been fulfilled. The flame of war, kindled in another hemisphere, has communicated to Europe; but the King still flattered himself, that this conflagration would not extend beyond its first bounds; and, particularly, that a nation, entirely commercial, which had made neutrality the invariable foundation of its conduct, would not have been enveloped in it: and yet, nevertheless, this has happened almost in the very moment when that power had entered into the most inoffensive engagements with the King and his two northern allies. If the most rigid impartiality that was ever observed, could not exempt the King from immediately feeling the inconveniencies of war, by the considerable losses sustained by his commercial subjects, he had much greater reason to apprehend the consequences, when those troubles were going to be extended; and, to conclude, when neutral commerce was about to endure new shackles, by the hostilities committed between those two powers. The King could not fail to perceive these evils, and to wish sincerely that the measures taken by the Empress of Russia for extinguishing this new war in its beginning, might be crowned with the most perfect success; but as this salutary work has not been brought to perfection, the King has resolved to join with his allies, the Empress of Russia, and the King of Denmark, in endeavouring to dispose his Britannic Majesty to listen to the pacific sentiments which their High Mightinesses the States-General have already made known, by their consenting to open a negotiation for peace.

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“ If such are the inclinations of that monarch, which ought not to be doubted, it appears that a suspension of hostilities would be the most essential prelude to their accomplishment; as military operations accompanying a negociation of that nature, can only serve to embarrass and retard the matter, whilst the allied courts wish for nothing more than to be able to accelerate it, by every method that may tend to the advantage and satisfaction of the two belligerent powers.

“ In the sincerity and rectitude which animate his Majesty and his two allies, he cannot conceal the apprehension which he feels from the report of the continuation of the war, which may be productive of the most fatal consequences, and may revive a variety of controversies and disputes. This motive, and more particularly, a desire to prevent a further effusion of blood, are considerations which ought to operate on the mind of the King of Great Britain; and in the entire confidence which his Majesty places in these circumstances, he would receive the truest satisfaction, if, by his interposition and mediation, joined to that of his allies, he should succeed in terminating the differences which have taken place between Great Britain and the United Provinces.

(Signed)

“ The BARON DE NOLKEN.

On the 18th of September, Lord Stormont gave the following answer of the British court to the Swedish envoy:

“ The preservation of public tranquillity has been the first object of his Majesty's care, during the whole course of his reign:—The commencement of that reign was signalized by the restoration of peace.

“ The King made very great sacrifices to humanity to procure that blessing; and he had reason to flatter himself, that, by such moderation, in the midst of victory, he should secure the public quiet on the most solid and durable foundations; but those hopes have all proved fallacious, and those foundations have been shaken by the ambitious politics of the court of Versailles. This court, after having secretly supported the rebellion kindled in America, openly joined his Majesty's rebellious subjects: and on account of this violation of public faith, and this direct act of hostility, he commenced the present war.

“ The conduct of the republic of Holland, through the whole course of the present war, has excited a general indignation.—This nation presents itself under a very different aspect from that of a nation merely commercial; it is a respectable power, for a long time bound to Great Britain by the closest alliance. The principal object of that alliance was their common safety, and expressly the mutual protection of each other against the ambitious designs of a dangerous neighbour, which their united efforts have so often defeated, to their reciprocal advantage, and to that of all Europe.

“ The desertion of all these principles of alliance, which the King, on his part, constantly adhered to,—an obstinate refusal to fulfil the most sacred engagements,—a daily infraction of the most solemn treaties,—assistance given to those very enemies against whom he had a right to demand succour,—an asylum and protection granted in the Dutch ports to American pirates, in direct violation of the most clear and precise stipulations,—and, to complete the whole, a denial of justice and satisfaction for the affront offered to his Majesty's crown, by a clandestine league entered into with his rebellious subjects:—These accumulated causes of complaint, made it impossible for the King to take any other measures than those which he has done, though with the most sincere regret.—In explaining to the public the reasons which rendered this rupture inevitable, he ascribed the conduct of the republic to the true cause,—namely,

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1781 namely, to the fatal influence of a faction, who sacrificed the national interest to their own private views ; but the King expressed, at the same time, the most earnest desire to bring back the republic to that system of close union, efficacious alliance, and mutual protection, which has so much contributed to the prosperity and glory of the two states.

“ When the Empress of Russia tendered her good offices to effect a reconciliation by a separate treaty of peace, the King, in expressing the gratitude which that fresh proof of a friendship which ever appeared to him so valuable, justly merited, declined exposing her Imperial Majesty to a fruitless negociation : but now, that there are some marks of a change in the disposition of the republic,—some indication of a design to return to those principles which the wisest part of the Batavian nation have never deserted, a negociation for a separate peace between the King and their High Mightinesses, may be opened with some hopes of success, under the mediation of the Empress of Russia, who was the first to propose her good offices in this salutary work.—If his Majesty did not immediately avail himself of that offer, it was because he had every reason to believe that the republic only sought, at that time, to amuse him by an insidious negociation : but the King would think that he made but an ill return to the sentiments which prompted those first offers, and would be wanting in the regard so justly due to her Imperial Majesty, and to the confidence which she inspires, if he associated to her mediation any other, even that of an ally the most respectable, and for whom the King entertains the most sincere friendship.

(Signed)

“ STORMONT.”

Some expectations were this year formed in England that the Emperor of Germany would declare in favour of Great Britain ; that he would enter into an alliance with it, and make such a diversion on the continent, as must compel the House of Bourbon, as well as the States of Holland, to enter into a treaty of peace. These expectations appear to have been totally without foundation.—His Imperial Majesty seems to have had very different views, and to have been desirous of promoting the interests of his subjects not by the arts of war, but by those of peace, and by communicating to them the advantages of religious toleration.—He issued letters-patent, granting the free exercise of their religion to Protestants throughout the Austrian dominions ; by a public edict he declared, that all religious houses, monasteries, and convents in the Austrian Netherlands, were exempt from all foreign ecclesiastical jurisdiction : and other regulations were adopted, which were calculated to reduce the number of religious houses, and to discountenance all monastic institutions.

On the 11th of June, in this year, the Emperor, who was then at Ostend, issued a placart, by which he declared that town to be a free port.—He also established some regulations concerning internal navigation in the Netherlands ; and, so far from manifesting any favourable disposition towards Great Britain, he, on the 9th of October, acceded to the armed neutrality.

Although considerable advantages had been gained by the royal troops in America, no event had taken place from which it could be rationally expected, that the final termination of the war would be favourable to Great Britain.

On the 16th of March, a partial action took place off the Capes of Virginia, between the fleet under Admiral Arbuthnot, consisting of seven ships of the line, and one 50 gun ship, and a French squadron of the same number of ships of the line, and one 40 gun ship. Some of the ships, in both fleets, received considerable damage in the action ; in which, however, the British fleet had the advantage, as the French were obliged to retire, and were supposed to be prevented

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1781 prevented by this rencontre from carrying troops up the Chesapeake, in order to attack General Arnold, and impede the progress of Lord Cornwallis.

That nobleman, after a victory obtained over General Greene at Guildford, in which little else was obtained but military reputation, proceeded to Wilmington, where he arrived on the 7th of April. But before he reached that place, he published a proclamation, calling upon all loyal subjects to stand forth, and take an active part in restoring good order and government; and declaring to all persons who had engaged in the present rebellion against his Majesty's authority, but who were now convinced of their error, and desirous of returning to their duty and allegiance, that if they would surrender themselves, with their arms and ammunition, at head-quarters, or to the commanding officer in the district contiguous to their respective places of residence, on or before the 20th of that month, they would be permitted to return to their homes, upon giving a military parole: that they would be protected in their persons and properties from all kinds of violence from the British troops; and would be restored, as soon as possible, to all the privileges of legal and constitutional government. But it does not appear that any considerable number of the Americans were allured by these promises to give any evidences of their attachment to the royal cause.

On the 20th of May, Lord Cornwallis arrived at Petersburg, in Virginia, where he joined a body of British troops, that had been under the command of Major-General Philips, but which command, in consequence of the death of that excellent officer, had devolved upon Brigadier-General Arnold. Before this junction, he had encountered very great inconveniences, from the difficulty of procuring provisions and forage, having marched several hundred miles in a country chiefly hostile, without one active or useful friend,—without intelligence, and without communication with any part of the country.

On the 26th of June, about six miles from Williamsburgh, Lieutenant-Colonel Simcoe repulsed with great gallantry, and equal success, a superior body of American troops: and, on the 6th of July, an action took place near the Green Springs, in Virginia, between a large reconnoitring party of the Americans, under General Wayne, and a considerable part of the British army. In South Carolina, an action happened on the 9th of September, near the Eataw Springs, between a large body of British troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, and a much superior body of Americans, under General Greene:—It was an obstinate engagement, in which the latter were defeated, with considerable loss.

In the course of the same month, General Arnold was sent on an expedition against New London, in Connecticut; where he destroyed a great part of the shipping, an immense quantity of naval stores, European manufactures, and East and West India commodities.

Notwithstanding the signal advantages that Lord Cornwallis had obtained over the Americans, his situation in Virginia began, by degrees, to be very critical; and the more so, as he did not receive those reinforcements and supplies from Sir Henry Clinton of which he had formed certain expectations, and which were absolutely necessary to the success of his operations, but had been withheld from the situation of New York, which was then supposed to be in danger of an attack from the American army, under General Washington. That commander, having for a considerable time kept the garrison of New York in perpetual alarm, suddenly quitted his camp at White Plains, crossed the Delaware, and marched towards Virginia, apparently with a design to attack Lord Cornwallis. Sir Henry Clinton then received information that Count de Grasse, with a large French fleet, was expected every moment in the Chesapeake, in order to co-operate with General Washington. In consequence of which, he

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1781 he conveyed his assurances to Lord Cornwallis, that he would either reinforce him, by every possible means, or make a powerful diversion in his favour. In the mean time, Lord Cornwallis had taken possession of the ports of York Town and Gloucester, in Virginia, where he fortified himself in the best manner in his power.

On the 28th of August, Sir Samuel Hood, with a squadron from the West Indies, joined that under the command of Admiral Graves, before New York; and, in consequence of the situation of Lord Cornwallis, they sailed for the Chesapeake, where they arrived on the 5th of September, with 19 ships of the line; but Count de Grasse had anchored in the bay on the 30th of August, with 24 sail of the line. The French admiral had previously landed a large body of troops, which had been brought from Rhode Island, and who immediately marched to join the army under General Washington. The British and French fleets came to an action on the same day in which the former entered the Chesapeake; which, though not general, yet Admiral Drake's division did great mischief to the van of the French fleet: but such was the superiority of the enemy, that after the two fleets had continued manœuvring in sight of each other for five days, the British admirals returned to New York, and the Count de Grasse remained in possession of the Chesapeake.

Before the news of this action had reached New York, a council of war was held there, in which it was resolved, that 5000 men should be embarked on board the King's ships, in order to proceed to the assistance of Lord Cornwallis. In the mean time, the most effectual measures were adopted by General Washington for surrounding the British army under Lord Cornwallis. A large body of French troops, commanded by the Count de Rochambeau, with a very considerable train of artillery, assisted in the enterprize. The Americans amounted to near 8000 continentals, and 5000 militia. General Washington was invested with the authority of commander in chief of the combined forces of America and France.—On the 29th of September, the investment of York Town was completed, and the British army quite blocked up. On the night of the 6th of October, the trenches of the enemy were opened; and from the 6th to the 14th, they kept up an incessant fire from heavy cannon, mortars, &c. which did great execution; when the works of the place were so much damaged, that it was plainly perceived they would, in a very short time, become untenable.

In the midst of these difficulties, the resolution of the British troops was in the highest degree conspicuous: but they were, at this time, so reduced by sickness, as well as by the accidents of war, that they amounted to little more than 3,600 men capable of duty, including servants and artificers. Their means of defence, of every kind, were now reduced to a very small quantity, and their stock of shells was well nigh exhausted. In this extremity, Lord Cornwallis, desirous to save all he could of such a brave body of men, determined to convey them over to Gloucester Point, on the other side of the river; an attempt was accordingly made, but the weather proved adverse, and frustrated a design which was well calculated to delay the fate of this devoted army.

In consequence of the failure of this attempt, the enemy redoubled their exertions from every quarter.—The works were at this time almost entirely demolished, and an assault was every moment expected. Under these circumstances, Lord Cornwallis felt the necessity of adopting the only certain means that remained of preserving the lives of his brave followers from the apparent destruction that must have followed from the meditated attack of his lines by the enemy's fleet and army. The British general opened a negotiation with the American commander in chief, when proposals were made for a capitulation on the 17th of October; and,

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1781 on the 19th, the posts of York Town and Gloucester were surrendered.—The troops were allowed the same honours which had been granted to the garrison of Charlestown.

In this manner was terminated, in America, the important and decisive campaign of the year 1781.—It put an end to all further expectations of subjugating America.—The spirit of enterprize that had been so resolutely preserved by the British commanders and their troops since the commencement of hostilities, was now changed to the narrow limits and subordinate duty of preserving the posts yet in the possession of the British forces.

Never had this spirit been exerted with more vigour than in the expedition conducted by Lord Cornwallis.—His gallant army, animated by his example, surmounted every difficulty that was surmountable, and overcame every obstacle that it was possible to subdue.—The brave commanders and his followers were forsaken by fortune; but, notwithstanding, it was their lot to combine glory with defeat.

On the 27th of November both Houses of Parliament assembled.—In the speech from the throne, his Majesty observed, that the war was unhappily prolonged by the restless ambition which first excited our enemies to commence it, and which still continued to disappoint his earnest desire and diligent exertion to restore the public tranquillity. But, he added, that he should not answer the trust committed to the sovereign of a free people, nor make a suitable return to their affectionate attachment to his person and government, if he consented to sacrifice, either to his own desire of peace, or to their temporary ease and relief, those essential rights and permanent interests, upon the maintenance and preservation of which, the future strength and security of this country must ever principally depend. The mention of the favourable appearance of affairs in the East Indies, and the safe arrival of our numerous commercial fleets, was followed by an account of the public misfortunes in America, which were stated as the ground for calling loudly for the firm concurrence and assistance of Parliament, and a vigorous, animated, and united exertion of the faculties and resources of the people.—It was also strongly recommended to Parliament to resume the prosecution of their enquiries into the state and condition of the British dominions in the East Indies.

On the usual motion for an address, a very warm and animated attack was made on the ministry by the ablest orators of the opposition. The ill success, the mismanagement, and the fatal consequences of the American war, were again made the subjects of attack, which were answered by the minister with his usual address and ability. No opinion, however, could be formed, from the language of the friends of government, of the measures to be adopted in the future conduct of the war. In order, therefore, to obtain some explicit declarations on this subject from the members of administration, on the 30th of November, when the usual motion was made to go into a committee of supply, Mr. Thomas Pitt rose to object to the Speaker's leaving the chair. This step, he declared, was not taken by him to deprive the crown of the means of carrying on the affairs of government, at that alarming juncture, but to protract the proceedings of the House in that business, till ministers had given some pledge of their intentions to change the system of their proceedings.

That this proposition was constitutional, could not be denied: the right of refusing any supply is inherent in the people, and, consequently, in their representatives; but in the exercise of that, as of other theoretical rights, the expediency of the measure was the principal object of consideration. Previous to the Revolution, the Kings of England were possessed of a permanent revenue, and various extensive resources, which enabled them to support the ordinary civil and military establishments of the kingdom. When, therefore, they called on

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1781 the people, in particular emergencies, for an extraordinary supply, Parliament very wisely took advantage of the necessities of the Prince, to obtain such concessions as they judged necessary for the security of the rights of the subject. But, at the time of the Revolution, the constitution, in this respect, underwent a total change, and the former practice had consequently ceased. The revenue necessary for the defence and support of the kingdom was now annually provided by Parliament; and the exercise therefore of the right was become extremely difficult, if not wholly impracticable.—To enquire into the existence of grievances, to discover and administer effectual remedies, would be a work of time; and the interval between the commencement of an endeavour to remove the evils complained of, and its successful completion, would be filled up by the annihilation of our fleets and armies. Equal mischief would also ensue, if the mode of carrying on the war, or the operations of the ensuing campaign were to be disclosed, as the conditions of granting the supplies. The situation of the country was certainly, at this time, very critical and alarming, and some change of measures was absolutely necessary; but these circumstances seemed to demand, in a particular manner, the most powerful and united exertions of Parliament. The eyes, not only of the nation, but of its enemies, were fixed upon them; and much of the spirit and exertions of both would naturally depend on the result of their deliberations.—These opinions appeared to be those of a great majority of the House; as the motion for going into a committee of supply, was carried, on a division, by 172, against 77.

A motion had been made during the course of the last session, for an enquiry into the conduct of the captors of the island of St. Eustatius, which, as we have already observed, was then negatived, chiefly on account of the absence of the two commanders, who were so deeply interested in the subject. Both these gentlemen being, at this time, attendant on their duty in Parliament, Mr. Burke, pursuant to the previous notice which he had given, moved, on the 4th of December, “That the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House, in order to enquire into the confiscation of the effects, wares, and merchandize, belonging to his Majesty’s new subjects on the island of St. Eustatius; and further to enquire into the sale, distribution, and mode of conveyance of a great part of the said effects, wares, and merchandize, to the islands belonging to France, and to other parts of the dominions belonging to his Majesty’s enemies.”

The general charges laid against Admiral Rodney and General Vaughan were as follows:—That on the surrender of the island at discretion, it became an authorized scene of the most cruel violence and depredation: that a general confiscation of property took place; every warehouse was locked up; every inhabitant was compelled to give an account of his plate, jewels, and ready money; and the books of all the merchants were seized, and their wares and goods thrown into one common mass: that a general proscription of the inhabitants took place, by which they were obliged, without exception, English, Dutch, Jews, French, and Americans, to quit the island.—That the confiscation of property being settled, and the inhabitants removed, the sale of their goods next followed: that a proclamation was issued, offering free ingress and regress to every purchaser, security that his money should not be taken from him, and full permission to transport to any place he chose, whatever merchandize he should purchase: that 17 vessels, principally French, were accordingly freighted with stores, and other articles, purchased 50 per cent. under their intrinsic value, for the service of our enemies; and lest they should become captures to the British privateers, which were hovering round the island, and waiting for the return of the purchasers, they sailed under the convoy of an Eng-

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lish ship of war : that three months were spent by the British commanders in disposing of and securing the plunder of St. Eustatius ; in consequence of which, as the superiority of the British fleet was at that time very decided in that part of the world, a very favourable opportunity was lost of recovering some of our former West Indian possessions ; and that from the same cause originated the weakness of the detachment sent under the command of Admiral Hood to prevent the junction of the French fleet in the West Indies with that which arrived with Count de Grasse from Europe.—The loss of Tobago, and the unfortunate conclusion of the campaign in the Chesapeake, were also attributed to the same origin.

In answer to these very heavy and pointed charges, Sir George Rodney offered a defence to the following purport :—He said, that when he appeared before the island of St. Eustatius, it was for the purpose of cutting off supplies from the enemy, and with the fixed resolution not to grant any terms to the inhabitants. The Dutch, though nominally the friends of this country, had, during the course of his command in the West Indies, been the most active friends of our enemies ; and to punish and check both, nothing had appeared more effectual than the reduction of an island, the inhabitants of which were animated with a rooted aversion to us. Among those inhabitants were many, who, while they called themselves Englishmen, were not ashamed to disgrace themselves and their country, by assisting her enemies with the means to injure her : such people had deserved no favour, and to them he had resolved to shew none. That St. Eustatius had been a mart for our enemies, in preference to us, was manifest from this circumstance ; that, some weeks before the capture of the island, an application had been made to the chief officers and inhabitants, to treat with them about the purchase of such materials as were requisite for the reparation and equipment of the English fleet. Their answer was, that as no articles of this nature were then among their stores, they could not in the least assist us.—That this was a false pretence, was very evident ; as, on the surrender of the island, such great quantities of naval stores were found within the warehouses, &c. as could not have been heaped together in so short a space of time. As to the outrages which it was asserted had been committed at St. Eustatius, he could declare, that, so far from being guilty of an abuse of power, he had never failed to redress, upon the first complaint, all irregularities and improprieties, without waiting to examine whether they were frivolous or important. But when he found that the natives of this kingdom, forgetful of the allegiance to their King, and criminally regardless of the ties which should have bound them to their country, had sunk the reputable character of an English merchant into the disgraceful occupation of a selfish trader, and were unprincipled associates with the Dutch, in traffic with those engaged in the American rebellion, he seized and sent them home, to meet the justice of the laws which they had so basely offended. With regard to insinuations which had been thrown out, of his having been actuated by mercenary views, the fact was, that when he seized on all the property on the island of St. Eustatius, it was not for his own use : he thought, at the time, that it would all belong to the King, and that it was his duty to see the most made of it, in order to carry it into the public treasury. He had not wished for a shilling of it, nor had any other idea, at the time, but that the whole belonged, of right, to his country : he had written to this effect to the first lord of the treasury ; and, therefore, in all he had done for the preservation of the property at St. Eustatius, it was for his country, and not for himself, that he had been acting.—It was pretended that he had permitted the stores and provisions to be conveyed to the enemy, directly, or circuitously through the neutral islands : but this was the very reverse of the fact ; as he had given orders that none of the stores or provisions

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1781 visions should be sold, but sent to his Majesty's yard at Antigua. So very strict had he been in this respect, that he was not satisfied with examining the clearance of every ship which went out, he had also caused her to anchor under his stern, and had her examined by commissioned officers; and, if she had more provisions on board than were necessary for the voyage, they were always taken out. As to the charge brought against him, that he had remained inactive for three months at St. Eustatius, his answer was, that matters of the highest consequence had made his presence absolutely requisite; and though he had staid no inconsiderable length of time upon the island, he took care to keep the fleet in active service, and planned such enterprizes as he imagined would have proved of infinite advantage to Great Britain. One of these was an expedition against Surinam, and another against Curassoa; but when the squadrons for this purpose were on the point of sailing, he received intelligence that a numerous fleet of French merchantmen, under convoy of 12 ships of the line, were observed to be steering towards Martinico. This circumstance immediately determined him to relinquish all thoughts of attacking two settlements, which, though of great value and importance, were of less consequence than the advantages which must have followed the success of intercepting the French convoy, and preventing the junction between their fleet, then on its course from Europe, and their naval armament then at anchor in Fort Royal Bay. For these purposes, he instantly dispatched a powerful squadron to Martinico, having directed that they should blockade the whole island, &c. The conduct of this enterprize was committed to Sir Samuel Hood, an officer of known skill and intrepidity, and the subsequent miscarriage of the expedition would not justify the least unpleasant reflection on that brave commander, who, as far as unexpected incidents permitted, had done his duty to the utmost. With respect to Tobago, the Admiral added, that the loss of the island was not his fault; as even the guns that he had sent the year before for its defence had never been mounted. As to the charge which laid the unsuccessful conclusion of the campaign in the Chesapeak to his ill-conduct, he observed, that considering the great convoy which De Grasse had under his charge, the season of the year, and the crazy state of many of his ships, it was not to be expected or supposed, but that he would send the greater part of his fleet along with the merchantmen to France; and it was fairly to be presumed, that he would have only retained those which were in condition to undergo the American service: but, independent of these circumstances, Admiral Hood's force was equal to its object, which was all a commander in chief had to consider; for if Admiral Graves had kept his squadron entire, and had met Admiral Hood, as was expected, at the Chesapeak, they would not only have been in possession before De Grasse's arrival there, but they would have encountered him with a sufficient force, aided by the great advantages which superior situation would have afforded them. But if the expresses which were sent to New York, to give notice of the motions of Monsieur de Grasse, or of Admiral Hood's destination to the Chesapeak, were taken by the enemy or otherwise detained, it was a misfortune to be regretted, but which could not be foreseen or prevented.

Such was the substance of Sir George Rodney's defence, who was followed on nearly the same ground by Major General Vaughan. That officer also denied, in the most solemn manner, his having any share or concern in the depredations and outrages alleged to have been committed. That so far from having authorized any degree of violence or cruelty, he listened, with the most rigid impartiality, to all complaints whatever, and endeavoured to give the aggrieved parties all the redress in his power. He declared, that he had not gained one single shilling, directly or indirectly, in consequence of the proceedings at St. Eustatius. One of the

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1781 the reasons for locking up the warehouses in that island was, he said, to prevent plundering, from which the troops were with difficulty restrained. Fire too, he added, was to be feared in a place, where many disaffected people lived, and who thought themselves injured by the confiscation of their property for treason. As to the Jews, he observed, it was evident they could not have been so ill treated as had been represented, because he had received an address, signed by the rulers and warden of that people, in which they expressed their gratitude for the clemency and goodness which he had exercised towards them. A large majority of the House of Commons was satisfied with the justification offered by the captors of St. Eustatius, and Mr. Burke's motion for the proposed enquiry, was negatived upon a division, by a majority of 163 to 89.

In this business the commanders certainly acted for the advantage of their country, according to the policy of war. Under the influence of a patriot and professional zeal they considered the general objects of the service, without sufficiently advertent to the rights of individuals: they either forgot, or were not informed, that, in some of their proceedings, they were violating a known law of Great Britain. That the island of St. Eustatius may be truly said to have fed the American rebellion, from the convenient, ample and universal supply of its market,—that the inhabitants of it had allied themselves, in principle and zeal, with the enemies of Great Britain,—and that among them were to be found British subjects, or their agents, who suffered the baser gains of trade to extinguish in their breasts the patriotism of commerce, is of incontrovertible notoriety: but St. Eustatius had been a neutral island, as it were, to the moment of its capture; and however wrong or injurious the conduct of such British merchants might seem to a commander of a fleet or army, who saw, and had, perhaps, experienced the evils arising from it, the former, in this particular instance, appear to have acted under the protection of that law which is superior to any naval or military jurisdiction, and which will justify adequate claims of reparation from those who have improperly exercised such extra-judicial authority. Such claims were actually made, and the situation of the different parties will appear from the following memorial, which, some time subsequent to this period, was presented to his Majesty by Lord Rodney.

“ That your Majesty having been pleased by your royal proclamation of the 20th of December, 1780, to order hostilities to be commenced against the Dutch, your memorialist, on the 28th of January following, being then at Barbadoes, received your Majesty's command for subduing the power of the Dutch in the West India settlements, and the reduction of St. Eustatius; which, with the greatest alacrity and expedition, he prepared to pay obedience to, and accordingly the fleet under his command, with the land forces commanded by Major General Vaughan on board, sailed for St. Eustatius, and on the 3d of February reduced that rich and valuable island, with all its dependencies, naval and military stores, effects and property to a very considerable amount to your Majesty's government.

“ It would be impossible for your memorialist to describe the enormities which were practised in that island, under pretence of its being a neutral port; your Majesty's open and avowed enemies were supplied with naval and military stores, cordage, ammunition, provisions, and all other commodities, which the laws of nations universally prohibit neutral powers from providing for either of the contending parties. The rebellion of your Majesty's American subjects was there fomented and encouraged, and English merchants dishonoured themselves by becoming Dutch burghers, and leaguering with them in a conduct which proved ruinous to their country, and which will ever be an indelible stain upon those who were concerned in such

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1781 such treasonable transactions; and whatever may be the fate of those who were the instruments of Providence in the punishment of such enormities, posterity will rejoice to find so much villainy did not pass unpunished.

"Your Majesty's memorialist further humbly represents, that when by his secret intelligence, the intercepting letters, and getting possession of books and papers, he discovered the nature of the traffic and correspondence carried on by the inhabitants of St. Eustatius, he should not have thought he had discharged the duty he owed your Majesty and the state, had he not made a seizure of every kind of property, except such as could be shewn to be legally imported directly from Great Britain: under this impression, your memorialist thought that men guilty of such perfidy and treason had no right to be treated as respectable people: they were allowed no terms,—they deserved none;—their persons were made prisoners of war,—their property forfeited to your Majesty; and their magazines, filled with provisions, naval and other stores, intended for the use of your Majesty's enemies and rebellious subjects, were seized: but your memorialist used his best endeavours to discriminate between the innocent and guilty; to the latter he shewed no favour, because he thought they deserved none, though the former were treated with all the respect due to innocence; and to them their property was ordered to be returned, as will most evidently appear from the orders given by your memorialist to the several agents. He considered it as the duty of a British Admiral implicitly to obey the commands of his sovereign, and to do justice to his country. He felt that his sovereign and his country were insulted by the Dutch harbouring such traitors,—that her justice was eluded, and her laws trampled upon by her treacherous subjects, and he thought it his duty to vindicate their honour and punish the *guilty*; and he has the heartfelt satisfaction to reflect, that these motives alone actuated his conduct, and that self-interest had no influence in the direction of his actions. He considered, that the produce of the capture ought to go to the public revenue of his country,—he had no claim to any part of it,—nor did he desire it: he thought himself happy, and sufficiently rewarded, in having executed effectually your Majesty's commands, and in having been the humble means of bringing those traitors to punishment for the treason they had committed against your Majesty, and the injuries they had done their country.

"Your memorialist further humbly represents to your Majesty, that his conduct was not only thus sanctioned by his own feelings, but he had also the satisfaction of receiving a letter from Lord George Germaine, then one of your Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, signifying your Majesty's royal and most gracious approbation of his conduct, and of your Majesty's most generous gift of all the property of the enemy, captured in those islands, to your navy and army, for their sole use and benefit; though previous to your Majesty's most royal and bountiful gift, most of the produce of the West Indies and America, found at St. Eustatius, was shipped on board the Dutch ships taken in the road of St. Eustatius, and sent under convoy to England, to abide your Majesty's pleasure; but unfortunately most of those ships were taken by a French squadron in the mouth of the British Channel.

"Your memorialist further begs most humbly to represent to your Majesty, that after these undoubted marks of your royal approbation of his conduct, it was with astonishment and inexpressible concern he learnt, that innumerable actions were commenced against him for doing his duty; but his astonishment was greatly increased indeed, when he found those claims were attended to with success, and that your Majesty's law officers were not ordered to protect or defend him; it is therefore sufficient to state generally to your Majesty, that claims have been
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1781 advanced against your memorialist and the captors, to the amount of 300,000*l.* several of which have been allowed, and the rest liable to be decided agreeable to the same precedent.—The sentence of the Lords Commissioners of Appeal having decreed restitution to the claimants, not to the amount of the sales, but according to the full original value or prime cost, with charges, freight, and insurance, the consequences of such decrees are, that the restitution awarded, is near three-fourths more than the value received, and the captors thereby made liable to pay many thousand pounds more than the capture.

“ Your memorialist further humbly represents to your Majesty, that from his having zealously endeavoured to discharge his duty to your Majesty and his country, his private fortune is attacked in order to comply with the sentence obtained against him and the captors, and the property which your Majesty was graciously pleased to bestow on him, as a reward for his long and faithful services, and for the support of those honours your Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer on him, is liable to be wrested from him by those very men, whose treasonable practices he once had the means of proving in the face of his country: and your memorialist, who, on the conclusion of the war, was in hopes, by the bounty of your Majesty, to have been enabled to spend the latter end of his life in peace, affluence and dignity, has, ever since the year 1781, been harrassed by constant litigations, which has not only filled his mind with perpetual solicitude, but ruined his health and impaired his constitution; and though, in consequence of your Majesty’s most gracious and generous gift of the property captured at St. Eustatius, your memorialist had formed plans and entered into considerable engagements for the settlement of his fortune, and the advantageous establishment of his family, yet the late decisions against him, and those which may shortly follow, (unless prevented) have entirely put an end to such pleasing prospects; his engagements are forfeited, and his views frustrated; these are consequences which your Majesty cannot fail to perceive must be prejudicial to your memorialist in the highest degree, and which may possibly end in the ruin of himself and family.

“ In such a situation, your memorialist would be totally destitute of hope, was it not that he has the firmest reliance upon the goodness, justice and magnanimity of your Majesty; fully convinced, that a man who has to the utmost of his ability and power, during a long and active life, endeavoured to forward your Majesty’s and the general interests of his country,—who has at all times cheerfully complied with the orders of his sovereign, and executed them in such a manner as to receive his royal approbation, will ever meet that support, encouragement, and relief from your Majesty, which his situation may lay him under the necessity of soliciting from your royal goodness.

“ Your memorialist therefore, with due submission, prostrates himself at your royal feet, and beseeches your Majesty will be pleased to take his case into your consideration, and afford him such protection and relief, as must prevent his falling a sacrifice, for having executed that duty he owed the best of Kings and his injured country.

“ (Signed,)

R O D N E Y.”

On the 12th of December, a very important motion was made in Parliament by Sir James Lowther, which occasioned a very long and interesting debate. That gentleman’s motion was, “ That it should be resolved by that House, that the war carried on against the colonies and plantations of North America had been ineffectual to the purposes for which it was undertaken, of affording protection to his Majesty’s loyal subjects there, and of defeating the hostile intentions of our confederated enemies; and that it was also the opinion of that House, that

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1781 all further attempts to reduce the Americans to obedience, by force, would be ineffectual, and must be injurious to this country, by weakening her powers to resist her ancient and confederated enemies." This motion was rejected by a majority of 220 to 179. The minister, however, had little reason to exult in his success, as it was sufficiently apparent, from the numbers who voted against administration, that the uninfluenced sense of that House was clearly and decisively against any further prosecution of the American war. On the 20th of the same month, the House was adjourned to the 22d of January, 1782.

The French having failed this year in their hostile designs in the Channel, were resolved to give the fullest support to those which were prosecuting elsewhere. Large reinforcements of troops and great quantities of provisions, and naval and military stores, were with all diligence prepared for the various parts of the world where the war was waging. The convoy was so numerous, and of such value and importance, that M. de Guichen was employed to accompany it till out of danger of being intercepted, with twenty of the largest ships of the line that could be provided. These preparations, however, did not escape the vigilance of the British ministry. A strong squadron was dispatched under Admiral Kempenfelt, to cut off this convoy, the arrival of which at the different places of its destination, would have proved highly injurious to the British interests in those parts. He fell in with it on the 12th of December, and the transports having been parted from the men of war by a violent storm, he was enabled to capture above 20 of them;—the want of frigates prevented the taking of many more. Most of the remaining part of the convoy was, in consequence, dispersed, and obliged to put back. Admiral Kempenfelt, on reconnoitring the force of the enemy, found it so superior to his own, as he had but 12 ships of the line, that he very wisely declined the contest and withdrew into port. The value of the prizes he had taken was very considerable: they were laden with all kinds of articles requisite for the land and sea service, and with all manner of provisions and necessaries. Near 2000 soldiers and sailors were also made prisoners. But notwithstanding the greatness of the disappointment to France by the loss of such a material part of this convoy, the facility with which, as it was asserted, the whole might have been captured, and the heavy blow that would thereby have been given to the enemy, occasioned no small degree of public discontent. Had a sufficient strength been employed, a victory of the most decided consequence might have been gained; and, instead of part of the convoy, the whole would, probably, have been taken, together with the fleet by which it was accompanied.

We have already related, that the spirited exertions of the volunteer associations of Ireland, had occasioned a just attention to be paid to the grievances of that kingdom, that some liberal laws in favour of the Irish trade and commerce were passed by the Parliament of Great Britain, and that the people of Ireland, after having armed for the defence of their country against foreign enemies, wisely resolved to deliver themselves from domestic evils, and from every species of ministerial oppression, and to obtain some important constitutional reformations. They even determined to assert the independence of their own Parliament on that of Great Britain; and they repeatedly declared, in public meetings, that no Parliament, but the Parliament of Ireland, was competent to make laws for the government of that kingdom.

On the 13th of November, in this year, Mr. Grattan moved for leave to bring in a bill to explain, amend, and limit the mutiny act; but this motion was rejected by a great majority: in short, it appeared that the Irish Parliament was, somehow or other, by no means so disposed to promote the constitutional reformations now in agitation, as the people at large. But in consequence of the ardor by which the Irish nation was actuated, to obtain some constitu-

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1781 tional reformation, in the course of this year, in various county meetings, and meetings of their armed associations, the supremacy of the British Parliament was denied in public resolutions. They also instructed their representatives to exert their utmost efforts, for the promotion of every measure that might tend to establish the independence and exclusive competency of their own legislature; to labour to restore to the Lords and Commons of Ireland their ancient right of legislation, by a final extinction of the unconstitutional powers of the Privy Council, as introduced by Poynings law; to give their strenuous support to an habeas corpus act; to provide for the impartial administration of justice, by securing the independence of the judges; to abolish all such places and pensions as neither rewarded public virtue, nor promoted public service; and to use their best endeavours to obtain a limited mutiny bill, instead of the present. The zeal and activity with which their associations continued to arm and exercise themselves, evinced also their determination to assert their rights, and enforce their claims, if it should be necessary, by a mode of application that should not be disregarded.

In the beginning of this year, a financial novelty appeared, whose object, execution and consequence claim some degree of attention from us. This was a work entitled, A Treatise on the Administration of the Finances of France, written by Monsieur Necker, Director General, which was laid before the King and caused to be printed for the public inspection. In the memorial which he addressed to the French monarch on this occasion, Mr. Necker observed, that he had been induced to render to his Majesty a public account of the success of his labours, and of the actual state of the French finances, by the consideration, that the notoriety and authenticity of such an account might tend greatly to promote the welfare of his Majesty's affairs. Such a statement of accounts, might also put every person who was concerned in his Majesty's councils, in a situation to study and to attend to the state of the finances; a species of knowledge important in itself, and having either connection with or relation to all deliberations of moment. He takes notice, that a principal cause of the great credit of England was the public notoriety to which the state of her finances was submitted: this account was every year presented to Parliament, and afterwards printed; and the money lenders, being thus regularly made acquainted with the proportion maintained between the receipts and disbursements, were not rendered uneasy by those chimerical suspicions and fears, which were the inseparable concomitants of a more disguised conduct. On the contrary, in France the state of the finances had constantly been made a matter of mystery; or, if it was mentioned, it was in the preambles of edicts, and always at the moment when there was occasion to borrow. It was, therefore, a matter of great moment to fix the public confidence on a more solid basis. The sovereign of such a kingdom as France, might always, at his pleasure, maintain the balance between his ordinary expences and revenues. The diminution of the former, ever seconded by the public wish, was in his own hands; and, when circumstances required it, the augmentation of imposts was submitted to his power. But the most dangerous, as well as the most unjust of all resources, was that of seeking temporary aids in a blind confidence, and engaging for loans, without having, either by an augmentation of the revenue, or by a retrenchment of expences, provided for the interests. Such an administration, by procrastinating the moment of embarrassment, only encreased the evil, and made further advances in undermining the precipice; whilst a different conduct, more simple and more liberal, would multiply the resources of the sovereign, and perpetually restrain him from every species of injustice.

Mr.

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Mr. Necker divided his account of the French finances into three parts. The first concerning the actual state of the finances, and all the operations which related to the Royal Treasury, and to public credit; the second was intended to unfold the operations which had united important measures of œconomy with great advantages in government; and in the third, he gives an account of some dispositions and regulations which had lately taken place, and which had for their object the general welfare of the people and the welfare of the state. In the latter part of this work, Mr. Necker expresses his regret, in very strong terms, that, in consequence of the commencement of the war, the introduction of reformatations, and the promotion of œconomy, had not been productive of all those beneficial effects to the people, which they might have received from them, if peace had been continued. Had no war broken out, many of the burthens might have been lightened, their taxes might have been reduced, the national debt lessened, canals opened, trade promoted and extended, new and useful establishments founded in the kingdom, and various blessings communicated to the nation.

This splendid theory, however, has not answered to the views of the writer, or the expectations of the people for whose use, instruction, and, as some have thought, for whose deception it was written. The boasted resources of France have not yet discovered themselves; nor have the efforts of public œconomy given the promised credit or plenty to the Exchequer of that kingdom. Experience refuses to fulfil the predictions of Mr. Necker. While the credit of France is feeble and languishing, that of Great Britain is acquiring new energy, and embracing new objects.

The present state of Geneva, as it produced some commercial projects which will be hereafter stated in this work, cannot be passed by without some particular notice. That republic, which had long enjoyed a great degree of tranquillity and happiness, was now unfortunately involved in much civil discord, in consequence of very violent disputes of the inhabitants, which had taken place between the aristocratical and democratical parties. Some of the magistrates and leading men of the republic, appeared much inclined to encroach upon the liberties of the common people, who, on their part, discovered a determined resolution to oppose every attempt of this kind. These disputes occasioned some interference of the cantons of Zurich and Bern, as well as of the court of France; but this interposition served only to increase the domestic troubles of the republic. It was the aristocratical party that appears to have been most favoured by the court of France.

In the course of this year, a letter was sent to the Magnificoes of Geneva, by M. de Vergennes, in the name of the King of France, expressing his dissatisfaction that the cantons of Zurich and Bern were not disposed to concur with him in sentiment, either on the necessity of a speedy pacification, or the means of procuring it. His Majesty, therefore, declared, that he should leave to the cantons of Zurich and Bern the care of restoring peace to the republic of Geneva; at the same time, cautioning those cantons, not to consent to any resolution, which might deprave the nature of the government of Geneva, by turning it into a confused democracy. This would be an innovation, that his Majesty was interested in preventing. The French monarch also acquainted them, that he would take all the orders of the state of Geneva under his protection; and that if any one should attempt any thing against the life or liberty of any inhabitant of the republic, and the government should fail to employ the necessary means to punish such offender, the King would take that care upon himself; as also of restoring among them good order, speedily, and by all means which his power could command. These

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1781 royal menaces, joined to the internal disturbances of the Republic, could not but convey very alarming apprehensions to the friends of its freedom and independence.

A general meeting of the Proprietors of Bank Stock was held at the Bank, in the month of September, to determine by ballot if it was the sense of the proprietors to increase their dividend one-half per cent. which was carried, and raised the dividend to six per cent. On the day following, the proprietors held another general meeting, to confirm the ballot of the preceding day, and also to make a call of eight per cent. on the capital stock of the company, which was agreed to, and to be paid in as follows :

1 Per cent. on the nineteenth of October.

2 Per cent. on the twentieth of December.

2 Per cent. on the seventeenth of January.

3 Per cent. on the fifteenth of February.

8 Per cent. which made an increase to their capital stock of	—	862,400
Former capital,	—	10,780,000

Increased capital stock,		11,642,400
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The following is a correct account of the number of houses in certain towns, laid before the House of Commons, in this year, by the tax office.

<i>Towns.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>		<i>Houses.</i>
Exeter,	—	1,474	Newcastle,	—	2,219
Plymouth,	—	1,510	Bristol,	—	3,247
York,	—	2,285	Bath,	—	1,173
Hull,	—	1,370	Ipswich,	—	1,244
Sheffield,	—	2,022	Birmingham,	—	2,291
Liverpool,	—	3,974	Cambridge,	—	1,925
Manchester,	—	2,519	Oxford,	—	2,316
Norwich,	—	2,302	Dover,	—	1,193
Lynn,	—	662	Nottingham,	—	1,533
Yarmouth,	—	682	Northampton,	—	706
Shrewsbury,	—	904			

The following report of the late Board of Trade is ably drawn up, and conveys much information relative to the linen manufacture. From its date it should have found a place under the preceding year; but we should not think ourselves justified in withholding it merely on that account.

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE the LORDS of the COMMITTEE of COUNCIL appointed to consider the IRISH BILLS.

My Lords,

"Your lordships having been pleased, by your order of the 6th instant, to refer to us a bill, lately transmitted from Ireland, intitled, "An Act for granting Bounties on the Export of the Linen and Hempen Manufactures of this Kingdom, therein enumerated; and for repealing the Bounties on Flax Seed imported, and for encouraging the Growth thereof in this Kingdom;" and having required us to report, how far the provisions of the said bill may af-

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1781 feft the linen trade of this kingdom, we forthwith proceeded to take the fame into our confideration accordingly.

“ Finding, however, that it would be neceffary to feek for much information, not contained in any papers tranfmitted to us, we defired the attendance of feveral respectable merchants interefted in the general export trade, and in the linen manufactures of Manchester and Scotland, as alfo of fome principal factors concerned in the imports and exports of Irifh linens, and of other perfons converfant in the extenfive fubject before us. In the refult, we now beg leave to report to your lordfhips,

“ That thofe claufes in the bill which repeal certain bounties now payable on imported flax feed or linfeed, and apply the average annual amount thereof to encourage the growth of flax feed and hemp feed in Ireland, cannot affect the interefts of the linen trade of this kingdom, and are, fo far as bounties may in any cafe be expedient, wifely and providently applied by thefe new provifions, to promote the intereft of the Irifh linen trade.

“ The value of flax feed annually imported into Ireland was, in 1773, eftimated at from 60,000*l.* to 80,000*l.* exclusive of this great expence, it is the evident intereft of that kingdom to give every reasonable encouragement to the internal produce of materials on which her ftaple manufacture depends, and to which her foil and climate are peculiarly fuitable; and the trufting to her foreign importation for the fupply of flax feed, is more efpecially ineligible, as the feed fo imported is faid not to be fo good and fo certain, as that which is raifed by the Irifh culture.

“ It is confiftent with the fame reasoning, and equally unconnected with any fpecial interefts of our linen trade, that the bill impofes a duty of 6*d.* per gallon on imported linfeed oil, which is chiefly imported from Holland, and applies the produce in aid of the new bounty above-mentioned. And here we fhall take occafion to obferve, that fuch farther duties as are impofed by the bill for the farther purpofes therein fpecified, cannot come within the import of your lordfhips general queftion refpecting our linen trade; for they confift in an additional charge of five per cent. on the produce of all impoft, excife, and customs inwards, except on tobacco, fugar, hops, and the produce of the Britifh colonies in America, the Weft Indies, or the fettlements in Africa, whereon any duties may be impofed, or altered, during the prefent feflion of Parliament, and except alfo on any Britifh hops or fugars.

“ We prefume, then, that we have done right in confining our attention and inquiries to the remaining provifions of the bill, by which bounties are given to certain fpecies of Irifh linens exported to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and Minorca; and alfo to Irifh made fail cloth exported to any place except Great Britain.

“ In examining thefe bounties, we found them in moft refpects fimilar to the bounties granted in Great Britain upon the exportation of Britifh or Irifh linens. There is fome fmall difference with regard to linens of 5*d.* per yard, which are fo ftated in the Irifh bill, in order to anfwer ours of 5*d.* Englifh money, inftead of being put at 5*d.* $\frac{5}{12}$, the proportion in Irifh money; in confequence of which, the bounty given in Ireland is, in a flight degree, higher than it is in Great Britain. There is, however, a difference much more material in the bounty on fail cloth, which, in the Irifh bill, at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* upon every three ells, although in England it is only 1*d.* per ell. In other particulars we do not obferve any difference, except in the denomination of money, for the purpofe of equalizing the feveral bounties, refpectively, to the proportions of what are given in this kingdom.

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1781 “ In taking a review of the last-mentioned bounties, which, on the average, are about 12 per cent. in favour of low-priced linens exported, it may not be immaterial to state to your lordships the manner in which the British bounties have operated in favour of the Irish manufacture. The first bounties on linen exported took place in 1743, and the export from England, of Irish linen, intitled to bounty, was,

		<i>Yards.</i>
In 1743,	— — —	40,907
1753,	— — —	1,039,967
1763,	— — —	2,588,564
1773,	— — —	2,832,246

“ This increase has been aided also by accumulated duties on the import of foreign linens into this kingdom, notwithstanding that such duties are said to have operated to the prejudice of our own woollen trade, by inducing foreign powers to lay reciprocal burdens and restrictions on our woollen manufactures. The consequence, however, has been, with respect to the Irish staple, that the general import of Irish linens has also been increased very greatly; for, the Irish linens imported into London, and the out-ports, were,

		<i>Yards.</i>
In 1743,	— — —	6,418,375
1773,	— — —	17,876,617
Increase,		11,458,242

“ That this may be attributed to the system of bounties and duties, rather than the general increase of our trade, will sufficiently appear from the proportionable decrease in the import and export of foreign linens, compared at the same periods.

“ Foreign linens imported into London and the out-ports, were,

		<i>Ells.</i>
In 1743,	— — —	18,584,503
1773,	— — —	8,954,649
Decrease,		9,629,854

“ Foreign linens exported from London and the out-ports, were,

		<i>Ells.</i>
In 1743,	— — —	9,894,837
1773,	— — —	4,385,276
Decrease,		5,509,561

“ In order to shew further the importance of this consideration between the two kingdoms, it deserves remark, that the total value of linen cloth exported from Ireland was,

		<i>£.</i>
In 1741,	— — —	480,516
1751,	— — —	751,993
1761,	— — —	803,258
1771,	— — —	1,691,787

And it is estimated, that about 7-8ths. of that whole export is sent to Great Britain.

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“ Having observed, that our system of linen bounties and linen duties, (though possibly, in a few cases, exceptionable in the great scale of commercial policy,) has proved an essential encouragement to the Irish staple, we think it right to add, that it has also been the means of forcing forwards an extensive linen manufacture in this kingdom, though struggling under a great disadvantage as to the growth and supply of the raw material.

“ The export of British linen, intitled to bounty, was, *Yards.*

In 1743,	—	—	52,779
1753,	—	—	641,510
1763,	—	—	2,308,310
1773,	—	—	5,235,266

“ The increase in the exports of British and Irish linens, not intitled to bounty, has, during the periods above-mentioned, been nearly as great in value, though not in quantity; and has been much promoted by the duties on foreign linens, which, when exported, leave behind a certain part of the duties paid on importation, and are subject to other custom-house charges; so that, before they can be re-shipped, there is a disadvantage against the foreign manufacturer, equivalent from 5 to 6 per cent.

“ On these facts your lordships will observe, that England is the principal market for Irish linens, to the annual amount in value of more than one million sterling; and that so large a sum is paid by this kingdom, not so much for export, as for her own internal consumption, at least 4-5ths of the whole quantity of imported Irish linens, and those of the highest price, being consumed in England. The other 1-5th only is exported; your lordships will see, then, that Ireland has a solid and permanent market for her linen at present, whence she draws speedy and certain payments, and is thereby enabled to make large returns. And, consequently, the export of 1-5th to the places specified in the bill, and the resulting advantages of that export, in a general extension of trade, must be the object of the present bill. The tracing how this may operate in Ireland, will best lead us to the probable effects of the measure on the linen trade of this kingdom, and thereby enable us to throw some light on your lordships enquiry.

“ From a comparison of what has been stated to us by different gentlemen, whose evidence we have taken, it does not appear, that the average expence of freight, commission, warehousing, wharfage, and other incidents attending the import of Irish linen into British ports, in order to its export from thence, ought to be estimated at less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The bounties, therefore, being equalized in the two kingdoms, Ireland will be able to export this article, under the new opening given to her trade, to an advantage over the English exporter, equal to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

“ This advantage will, for a certain period, be much counterbalanced by the long credits which will be necessary in the markets to which she must go; by the uncertain returns from those markets; by the difficulties of suddenly diverting any trade from its accustomed channel; and also by the inability of the Irish merchants to send full and well-assorted cargoes, such as are sent from England, and which include India goods, foreign linens, and the various articles of manufacture to be collected from Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Norwich, and elsewhere. All these embarrassments are likely to bear hard on the first adventurers; but means of palliating these will gradually be found; and it must be expected, that an existing operative advantage, in favour of any branch of trade, will ultimately effectuate its establishment.

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“ Under these considerations we see, with some regret, an experiment tending to interrupt and hazard a great branch of commercial intercourse between the two countries, which has been highly and reciprocally advantageous. We are convinced too, that this new speculation, so far as it succeeds, will operate to the diminution of our export trade,—to the diminution also of the returns for that trade; and, consequently, to the prejudice of our navigation, and of the commercial interests in general; but we cannot think that such mischiefs are suddenly to be expected to any considerable extent.

“ If, however, contrary to these reasonings, such a revulsion of trade should take place, it may be well to have foreseen and considered how far Great Britain would have some remedy within her own reach. The foreign manufacturers, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which they labour by the operation of our bounties and duties, which amount, in their average effect, to near 15 per cent. have been able to preserve some degree of competition, especially in the fine linens; a small reduction therefore in those duties would, in the event supposed, enable this kingdom to supply herself with linens as cheap as ever, and with advantage to the revenue. It might probably, too, obtain in return a larger consumption of woollen manufactures and other goods upon the continent of Europe.

“ If, however, the first effect of the bill in question should tend to raise the price of the Irish linen, which it probably may, and which we are assured has already happened in some degree, it may be expected, that a larger importation of foreign linens will at once take place without any lowering the duties; and this will more particularly happen in the instance of foreign linens imported for home consumption, if, by the direct export of low-priced linens from Ireland, the Irish drapers should no longer be able to make suitable assortments for the English market.

“ The consequence would be, that the import of Irish linens in general would be considerably diminished, and those concerned in the fine branch of the manufacture would suffer in their business. Another consequence would be, if it should be thought expedient to continue the bounties, as at present, that the demand from the British manufactures increasing much, their produce would also increase in proportion; for it deserves remark, that, though this kingdom carries on her linen trade, subject to great and irremovable disadvantages, she is supposed at present to manufacture more linens than are exported from Ireland, and is therefore in that improved state of the business, which can furnish a quick supply to any sudden deficiency or increased demand.

“ Upon the whole view of the measure before us, we are not called upon to form an opinion, how far its sudden adoption, though favourable to the interests of the Dublin factors, and calculated to accelerate and extend the benefits of the North America and West India commerce now open to Ireland, is likely to promote the increase and security of the Irish staple manufacture. With respect to the operations of that measure on the linen trade of this kingdom, it is necessary to advert to the state both of our exports and of our manufactures; and, with regard to the first, we submit to your lordships, that, as far as the direct export of linen from Ireland may take place in consequence of the bounty now proposed by Ireland, in so much will our exports be affected, and the detriment resulting to our general trade from that circumstance, will be increased by the returns made for such exports, and by all the collateral consequences of a proportionable transfer of our navigation and general commerce to the ports of Ireland. With respect, however, to the operation on our linen manufactures, we think them much more likely to be promoted than injured by it; and we trust, for the reasons which

we

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1781 we have already detailed to your lordships, that the latter effect may be expected from this bill, and that the former will not speedily take place to any considerable extent.

“ We ought, before we close this report, to take notice of that part of the bill which extends the bounty to the exported checked linens, of which our annual exportation from London and the out-ports, is at present to the amount of 120,000*l*. This valuable branch of trade, which is chiefly supplied at present by Manchester, is certainly liable to be affected by the bounty now proposed in Ireland;—it has hitherto been supported by the vigour and enterprising spirit of our manufacturers, though under the disadvantage of either purchasing the raw material from Ireland, where it is subject to a duty upon exportation, or from Embden, Hamburgh, and other places, where it is sold at a high price. It is easy, however, to foresee, that Ireland, having the material and the export, must gradually and ultimately have gained ground in this branch of trade, even without the bounty; and yet with that advantage it may be doubted whether she will suddenly surmount the various embarrassments, which she has to encounter, and which we have already described to your lordships.

(Signed),

CARLISLE,
C. F. GREVILLE,
WILLIAM EDEN,
ANDREW STUART,
E. GIBBON.

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to every country, exclusive of Great Britain, distinguishing each country for the year, ending the 25th of March, 1781.

			<i>Yards.</i>
East Country,	—	—	29,612
Holland,	—	—	67,826
Spain and Portugal,	—	—	108,215
America,	—	—	288,973
West Indies,	—	—	142,099

The quantity of linen yarn exported this same year to Great Britain, was 37,202 hundred weight, value 223,215*l*.

The export of frize from Ireland, during this year, was mostly to America, and amounted to no more than 1779 yards.

Of old drapery, there was imported from Great Britain to Ireland in this year 326,578 yards. Of new drapery 433,198 yards.

It appears from the Custom-house books, that there was no exportation of filks or mixtures of filks from Ireland, till the year 1781, when there was exported of those articles as follows:

		<i>lb. oz.</i>
Ribbands,	—	13 8
Manufactured filk,	—	430 3½
Thrown, dyed,	—	25 0

No cotton yarn, manufactures and mixtures of cotton were exported from Ireland previous to this year, when the exports were as follows: Cotton, 239 pounds weight; manufactures and mixtures of cotton, to the value of 157*l*. 7*s*.; fustians, 1,108 yards.

There were also exported from Ireland, during this year, hardware to the value of 16*l*. 3*s*.; ironmongers ware to the amount of 253*l*. 6*s*. 3*d*.; and 25 hundred weight of wrought iron.

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1781 The export of glass from Ireland, in 1781, was as follows: 1,892 dozen of bottles; and glass ware to the value of 35l. 8s. 10d. There was no export of glass from Ireland previous to the year 1780.

Importation of stockings into Ireland in this year.

			Pairs.
Cotton stockings,	—	—	17,338
Silk ditto,	—	—	431
Silk and thread,	—	—	24
Silk and worsted,	—	—	228
Thread,	—	—	29,655
Woollen,	—	—	331
Worsted,	—	—	5,111

Exportation of stockings from Ireland in the same period.

Thread stockings,	—	—	432 dozen, 4 pair.
Woollen,	—	—	297 dozen, 11 pair.
Worsted,	—	—	1,143 dozen, 1 pair.

The number of hats exported from Ireland in this year, amounted to 1,404.

The importation of upholstery into Ireland, in 1781, was to the value of 4,805l. 13s. 1d.: export of ditto, in the same year, was to the amount of 113l. 6s. 8d.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland in one year, ending at the 25th of March, 1781, was as follows: books, bound, to the value of 1l. 19s. 6d.; and 15 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lb. weight of books unbound: writing paper, 22 reams.

In this year, 147 bounty vessels were at the fishery in Lough Swilly, which is the principal herring fishery in Ireland: they expended, in the cure of fish, 1,914 tons of salt; which salt cured in bulk, (allowing 30 maize, or 15,000 fish, to one ton of salt) 57,420 maize.—One hundred and seventeen vessels also from Liverpool and the Isle of Man, purchased cargoes in Lough Swilly for their red-herring houses. They purchased and royaled, with the salt they brought, 49,950 maize or barrels, and paid 12,487l. 10s.

The value of the total imports from Great Britain into Ireland, this year, was	£.
Whereof the growth, product, or manufacture of Great Britain, amounted to	2,432,417
	1,486,317

Remains of foreign,	—	946,100
Whereof African, American and Asiatic, about	—	800,000
Remains of other countries,	—	146,100

In this year Portugal prohibited the importation of printed linens from Ireland, and even ordered such parcels as were then in the Custom-house to be sent out of the kingdom.

The Portuguese make a good deal of common linen, and coarse kind of table linen for their own consumption, nor is their demand for fine linen from other countries considerable.—The French white linens imported into Portugal in 1776 and 1777, amounted only to 20,000 pieces, and the Cambrayas were not so much: but the chief importation is of narrow Britanias from Hamburg, amounting in 1777 to near 200,000 pieces: these are consumed in the Portuguese colonies; and the manufacture of Britain and Ireland has not yet rivalled them

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1781 in cheapness. Irish linens pay in proportion to those of France as 120 is to 100; the Irish being imported as *Olanda contrafata*, or counterfeit Hollands.

An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Asia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to the kingdom of Ireland, from the 25th of March, 1780, inclusive, to the 25th of March, 1781.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.		
	Lbs.	Yards.	£.	s.	d.
Stained Callico, —	—	1,585	396	5	0
White ditto, —	—	402	80	8	0
Muslin, —	—	74,220 $\frac{1}{2}$	12,370	1	8
India Silks and Stuffs, —	—	—	3	15	0
Drugs, — —	—	—	7,677	1	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cinnamon, —	7,323	—	2,929	4	0
Cloves, — —	1,943	—	971	10	0
Mace, — —	1,944	—	1,620	0	0
Nutmegs, — —	7,176	—	3,588	0	0
Pepper, — —	53,727	—	3,581	16	0
Pimento, — —	555	—	27	15	0
Rice, — —	85,799	—	609	9	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Saltpetre, — —	102,116	—	2,279	7	6
China raw Silks, —	68,429	—	68,429	0	0
Bohea Tea, —	1,224,506	—	122,450	12	0
Green ditto, —	517,127	—	155,138	2	0

China ware is omitted in this account, being confounded with earthen ware from England.

The following is an exact account of the woollen cloth made in the West Riding of Yorkshire, from March 1780, to March 1781; with the amount of the increase from the twelve months preceding that period:—

Broad cloth,—102,118 pieces, containing 3,099,127 yards: increased this year, 7,593 pieces, containing 399,496 yards.

Narrow cloth,—98,721 pieces, containing 2,671,397 yards: increased this year, 11,412 pieces, containing 100,073 yards.

In this year above 50,000 tons of iron were imported from Russia and Sweden: but the importation yearly from the former of these places, does not exceed 26,000 tons; and from the latter, 16,000 tons, on an average of the last twelve years.

The quantity of indigo imported this year into England from the East Indies, amounted to 24,317 lbs.

The following quantity of British and Dutch shipping passed the Sound, to and from the Baltic, during the three following years:—

1779	British,	—	1651	Dutch,	—	2075
1780	Ditto,	—	1701	Ditto,	—	2058
1781	Ditto,	—	2001	Ditto,	—	9

The British shipping that went to Hamburg, and other parts of the north, was also very considerable: but of the 2001 British ships said to have passed the Sound in 1781, the real amount was not, probably, much above 1000; the greater part having made two voyages.

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The interception of the large fleet under the convoy of Admiral Zoutman, and the subsequent blockade of the Dutch ports, sufficiently accounts for the apparent annihilation of the trade of Holland to the Baltic during this year; the neutral powers, consequently, reaped considerable advantages from this circumstance; as they, by this means, became the principal carriers in the Dutch and French commerce. Many of the Dutch merchantmen went also under Imperial, Swedish, Prussian, Russian, or Danish colours; and some English ships did the same, by which they saved considerably in the premium of insurance.

The number of ships employed from England in the whale-fishery to Davis's straits and the Greenland seas, during the course of this year, amounted to 34; the bounty at 40s. per ton.— In consequence of the war, the Dutch had no ships on that fishery.

An account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1781.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	2,294	1,726
Wheat Flour, &c.	86,045	3,536
Rye, —	2,550	150
Barley, —	21,711	—
Malt, —	107,928	—
Oats, —	7,992	18,215
Oatmeal, —	8,563	116
Beans, —	15,248	430
Peas, —	2,826	290
SCOTLAND.		
Wheat, —	82	—
Wheat Flour,	9,336	—
Barley and Bear,	15,588	—
Barley Meal, —	199	—
Barley hulled, —	82	—
Malt, —	5,040	—
Oats, —	1,171	—
Oatmeal,	5,660	—
Peas and Beans,	550	—

cwt. qrs. lb.

Biscuit, — 6,383 1 0

IMPORTED.

1781.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	143,772
Wheat Flour,	15,924
Rye, —	10,743
Barley, —	56
—	—
Oats, —	55,502
Oatmeal, —	367
Beans, —	3,244
Peas, —	14,508
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat Flour, —	99
Oats, —	53,576

cwt. qrs. lb.

Biscuit, — 43 0 27

The bounties and drawbacks on corn and grain exported from England in this year, amounted to 26,663l. 13s. 0½d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same period, was 5,653l. 10s. 9¼d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 4,275l. 4s. 9d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 447l. 6s. 3¾d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 7d.; rye, 3s. 4¼d.; barley, 2s. 1¾d.; oats, 1s. 8½d.; beans, 2s. 10½d.

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	3 per ct. B. 1726	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. 1777	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	3 per ct. B. 1751	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Navy Bills.	Om- ni- Pre
January,	{ 108¼	57¾	60¼	55	57	71¾	15¼	11½	56¾	55	54¼	148¼	55¼	14s. pr.	13½	—
	{ 115½	56½	57¾	—	56½	69¾	15½	11¾	54¾	54½	53¾	145¾	54½	3	11½	—
February,	{ 108½	57½	59	55½	57½	72¼	16½	11½	56	55¾	54¾	148	54¾	4	14	—
	{ 105½	56¾	57¾	55	56½	70½	15½	11½	54¾	54¾	54½	146½	54½	1	13½	—
March,	{ 112¾	57¾	63¼	—	59	76½	17¾	12½	60¾	57½	56½	155¾	57½	5	13¾	8
	{ 106¾	57½	58½	—	57½	71½	15½	11½	56½	55¾	55½	147	54½	par.	12¼	—
April,	{ 112¼	58	58¾	—	58½	75¼	17½	12½	57½	58	57¼	148	54¾	11	13	9
	{ 108¼	57½	58½	—	58½	72½	16½	12½	—	57½	56¾	144½	54½	3	11¾	1¼
May,	{ 113½	58	58¾	56¾	58¾	74	17½	12½	57¾	58¾	—	147¼	57½	15	12¼	9¾
	{ 110¾	57½	57½	—	58½	73½	17¼	12½	57¼	58¼	—	144	54½	9	11¾	8½
June,	{ 113½	58¼	59¼	57¼	59½	74½	17¾	12¾	58½	59½	58½	145½	55½	16	11½	8¾
	{ 112¼	57¾	58½	—	—	73¾	17¾	12¾	57½	58½	57¾	143¼	55½	9	10½	8
July,	{ 114¼	58¾	57½	—	57¾	74	17½	12½	58	56¾	56½	145	55¾	16	12	—
	{ 113½	57¾	57½	—	57¼	73¾	17	12¾	57¾	56½	—	133	55¼	8	10¾	8½
August,	{ 114½	58¼	57¼	56	57½	74	17	12½	57¾	57¼	56½	140	55½	10	11¾	—
	{ 113½	57¾	56¾	55¾	57¼	73¾	16½	12½	57½	56¾	55½	134	55	4	11	7¾
Septemb.	{ 119	57¾	57	—	57½	73¾	16¾	12¾	57¾	57½	55½	141	55½	6	12	7¾
	{ 113	57¾	56½	—	56½	73½	16½	12½	57	56½	—	138	—	1 dif.	11½	7½
October,	{ 115½	55¾	56¾	56½	58	73½	16¾	12¾	55½	56¾	56½	140¾	53	5 pr.	12¾	—
	{ 108½	55¼	55½	54¾	56¼	70½	16¾	12¼	54¾	55¾	—	138½	52½	2	11¾	—
Novemb.	{ 113	58	58½	56	57½	73	16½	12¾	56	56½	55¾	141¾	53¾	5	12	—
	{ 107¾	54¾	55¾	55¼	55¾	70½	16¾	12¾	54½	55¾	55½	138¾	52½	4 dif.	10¾	—
Decemb.	{ 111¾	57¾	57¾	56¼	57¾	72½	16½	12½	56½	57¾	56¾	142	55¼	8 pr.	12	—
	{ 110	56½	57¾	56½	57¾	71½	16½	12½	55½	56½	55½	138½	53¼	3	11½	—

The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal assent in the session of Parliament which commenced on November 1, 1780, and was prorogued on the 18th of July, 1781:

A bill for the better supply of mariners to serve in his Majesty's ships of war, and on board merchant-ships.

For extending the provisions of three acts made in the 18th, 19th, and 20th years of his present Majesty's reign, with respect to bringing prize-goods into this kingdom; to prizes taken from the States-General of the United Provinces; for declaring what goods shall be deemed military or ship stores; for regulating the sale of, and ascertaining the duties upon, East India goods, condemned as prize in the port of London; for permitting the purchasers of prize-goods condemned abroad, to import such goods into this kingdom, under the like regulations and advantages as are granted by law to the captors themselves; and for reducing the duties on foreign prize tobacco.

For the encouragement of seamen, and the more speedy and effectual manning of his Majesty's navy.

For further continuing an act made in the 19th year of his present Majesty, for allowing the importation of fine organzined Italian thrown silk, in any ships or vessels, for a limited time.

For raising a certain sum by way of annuities and a lottery, and for consolidating certain annuities, &c.

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For repealing the discounts and abatements upon certain foreign goods, and for granting additional duties upon tobacco and sugar imported into Great Britain.

For granting to his Majesty an additional duty upon the produce of the several duties under the management of the respective commissioners of the excise in Great Britain.

To permit the importation of flax and flax-seed into this kingdom and Ireland, in any ship or vessel belonging to any kingdom or state in amity with his Majesty, navigated with foreign mariners, during the present hostilities.

For repealing the present duties upon paper, paste-boards, mill-boards, and scale-boards made in Great Britain; and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For permitting goods the product or manufacture of certain places within the Levant or Mediterranean seas, to be imported into Great Britain or Ireland, in British or foreign vessels, from any place whatsoever; and for laying a duty on cotton and cotton wool imported into this kingdom, in foreign ships or vessels, during the present hostilities.

To permit, during the present hostilities, the importation of goods the produce of the plantations of the crown of Portugal, into Great Britain and Ireland, in Portuguese vessels; and the importation of certain other goods therein mentioned, in any neutral ships or vessels.

To continue several laws relating to the opening and establishing certain free ports in the island of Jamaica; for allowing the free importation of sago powder and vermicelli from his Majesty's colonies in North America; for the free importation of raw hides and skins from Ireland and the British plantations in America; for the exportation of provisions, goods, wares, and merchandize, to certain places in North America, which are, or may be under the protection of his Majesty's arms; and from such places, to Great Britain, and other parts of his Majesty's dominions, &c.

For continuing and amending an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled, "An act for appointing and enabling commissioners to examine, take, and state the public accounts of the kingdom; and to report what balances are in the hands of the accountants, which may be applied to the public service, and what defects there are in the present mode of reviewing, collecting, issuing, and accounting for public money; and in what more expeditious and effectual, and less expensive manner, the said service can, in future, be regulated and carried on for the benefit of the public."

To direct the payment into the Exchequer of the respective balances remaining in the hands of several persons therein named, and for indemnifying the said persons and their representatives against all future claims relating thereto, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

For continuing the encouragement and reward to persons making certain discoveries for ascertaining the longitude at sea, or making other useful discoveries and improvements in navigation, and for making experiments relating thereto.

For establishing an agreement with the East India Company for the payment of the sum of 400,000*l.* for the use of the public, for granting the said Company, for a further term, the sole and exclusive trade to and from the East Indies; and for establishing certain regulations for the better management of the said Company, as well in India as in Europe, and for recruiting the military forces of the said Company.

Also a bill for explaining and amending so much of the aforesaid act as relates to the administration of justice in Bengal, under a judgment of the Supreme Court of Judicature; and also for indemnifying the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, and all officers who have acted under their orders or authority, in resistance to the process of the Supreme Court.

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—				£.	s.	d.
For 90,000 seamen, including 20,317 marines, ordnance, &c.				4,446,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	—	—	—	386,261	5	8
Towards building and repairing ships of war,				670,016	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	—	—	—	3,200,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.				582,924	11	9
Ditto for the sea service,	—	—	—	234,000	0	0
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1781,	—	—	—	252,104	3	4
Ditto of 1780,	—	—	—	447,182	4	6
For compensation to proprietors of lands near Chatham,	—			20,671	12	6
Ditto of lands near Sheerness and Gravesend,	—	—	—	13,452	17	0
Ditto of lands at and near Tilbury fort,	—	—	—	148	18	0
For 39,666 land-forces, including 4,213 invalids, &c.	—			1,049,774	8	11
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	—	—	—	42,927	16	0
For maintaining forces and garrisons out of the kingdom,				1,488,927	0	0
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar and Minorca,				56,074	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy,	—			367,203	9	10
To make good the deficiencies in sums voted for ditto in 1780,				6,463	8	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	—	—	—	93,947	15	8
For ditto of two regiments of foot of Hanau and subsidy,	—			39,597	1	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and subsidy,	—			17,498	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
For ditto of 1,447 troops of the Margrave of Anspach, &c.	—			39,644	14	3
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbst, with the subsidy, &c.	—			16,630	11	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
For provisions for the foreign troops serving in America,	—			49,373	17	1
For artillery for the foreign troops,	—	—	—	27,683	14	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,				672,457	15	0
For the cloathing of the militia,	—	—	—	99,679	13	4
For additional militia companies, &c.	—	—	—	6,010	3	9
Ditto of eighty independent companies of foot,	—	—	—	117,608	6	8
To make good the deficiency on pay of additional companies, &c. of militia, in 1780,	—	—	—	8,452	4	8
Ditto on the vote for pay of two battalions of Lord John Murray's regiment, in 1780,	—	—	—	1,107	16	4
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,				3,351,589	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.				79,059	0	0
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	—	—	—	596	4	2
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	—			91,604	7	1
To Dr. William Smith, for attendance on the sick and deceased prisoners in the gaols of Middlesex, Westminster, and Southwark, for near four years, and for medicines for their use, &c.	—			1,200	0	0
To the Levant Company,	—	—	—	8,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,				4,994	17	6
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,				13,000	0	0
Carried over,				18,003,868	15	2

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	18,003,868	15	2
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	22,222	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c. —	57,910	12	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballast on the Thames, — — — — —	15,487	17	0
For the relief of the sufferers by the violent hurricanes in the island of Barbadoes, — — — — —	80,000	0	0
Ditto of the island of Jamaica, — — — — —	40,000	0	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerset House, —	36,207	4	3
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John, —	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, — — — — —	2,986	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — — — —	5,099	10	5
Ditto of East Florida, — — — — —	3,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, — — — — —	3,900	0	0
On account of general surveys in North America, —	207	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate, — — — — —	10,000	0	0
Towards repairing the King's-bench and Fleet prisons, which were set on fire by the rioters in 1780, — — — — —	25,000	0	0
To Mr. H. Philips, for his discovery of a certain powder for the destruction of insects, — — — — —	3,600	0	0
To such persons whose losses by the riots in June 1780, amounted to 100l. or under, — — — — —	5,200	0	0
To the Bank for discounts, and rewards for receiving and paying contributions, — — — — —	92,375	14	4
For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1780, —	480,000	0	0
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills, with interest,	1,941,849	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c. —	1,559,678	1	7
For ditto, — — — — —	1,033,261	2	9
Deficiency in the land-tax, — — — — —	252,978	11	0
Ditto in the malt-tax, — — — — —	43,717	2	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto of coinage duty, — — — — —	8,052	4	1
Ditto of annuity fund, 1758, — — — — —	30,999	11	2
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778, — — — — —	191,664	7	2
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779, — — — — —	193,663	0	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780, — — — — —	222,745	4	6
Ditto of ways and means, 1780, — — — — —	8,551	8	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
	24,378,324	10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
For military services, on the vote of credit, —	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	25,378,324	10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$

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The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt, — — —	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s. — — —	2,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery, — — —	12,480,000	0	0
By certain surplusses of the sinking fund, — — —	2,788,346	19	8
By Exchequer bills, — — —	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto, — — —	1,900,000	0	0
By ditto, for the Bank charter, — — —	2,000,000	0	0
By money to be paid by the East India Company, — — —	400,000	0	0
By surplus of the 2-7ths 9d excise, — — —	23,708	11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
By ditto of the fund for life annuities 18 George II. — — —	40,000	0	0
By ditto of the fund for life annuities 19 George II. — — —	56,000	0	0
Disposeable money in the Exchequer, — — —	16,879	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
By balances of the late treasurers of the navy and paymasters of the forces, voted 400,000l. but no more paid into the Exchequer than — — —	367,640	3	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
By balance of the account of Sir William Howe, — — —	18,723	13	11
By ditto of the account of Messrs. Fonnereau and Burrel, — — —	1,357	14	0
By ditto of the account of Sir William Erskine, — — —	772	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
By part of the balance of the account of the late Mr. Richardson, — — —	5,000	0	0
By the sale of lands in the ceded islands, — — —	5,200	0	0
By money arisen from the sale of French prizes, — — —			
By duty on gum Senegal, — — —	228	0	0
	24,353,857	4	9
Vote of credit, — — —	1,000,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means, — — —	25,353,857	4	9
Total amount of Supplies granted, — — —	25,378,324	10	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total amount of Ways and Means, — — —	25,353,857	4	9
Deficiency of Ways and Means, — — —	24,467	5	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
The national debt, up to July 1781, amounted to — — —	£. 177,206,000	0	0
The annual interest of which was, — — —	6,812,000	0	0
The following additional taxes were imposed this year:—			
Five per cent. on excise, except malt, soap, candles and hides, — — —	£. 150,000	0	0
Discount of the customs, — — —	167,000	0	0
Tobacco, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per pound, — — —	61,000	0	0
Sugar, one halfpenny per pound, — — —	326,000	0	0
Duty on paper, — — —	100,060	0	0
Duty on almanacks, — — —	10,000	0	0
Total of new taxes, — — —	£. 814,060	0	0

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Review of perpetual taxes, from 1776 to 1781, inclusive:—

Computed produce per annum.

TAXES.			TAXES.		
In 1776	—	£. 73,000 0 0	In 1779	—	£. 478,000 0 0
1777	—	242,000 0 0	1780	—	701,616 0 0
1778	—	336,000 0 0	1781	—	814,060 0 0
Total of perpetual taxes,			2,644,676 0 0		

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, from December 10, 1780, to December 11, 1781.

Christened, males	8,774	Buried, males	10,499
— females	8,252	— females	10,210
17,026		20,709	

1782 Of the great variety of important matter which demands a place in the history of this year, we shall begin with a brief statement of such of the parliamentary transactions of it, as bear a more immediate relation to our subject.

The ruinous tendency of the American war was now become so very evident to the whole nation, and the ministry appeared so full of doubt and hesitation as to any future mode of carrying it on, that it seemed to be absolutely necessary for the welfare of this country, that some effectual means should be employed to put an end to such a fatal contest. With this view General Conway, on the 22d of February, made the following motion in the House of Commons, “That an humble address should be presented to his Majesty, earnestly imploring his Majesty, that, taking into consideration the many and great calamities which had attended the present unfortunate war, and the heavy burthens thereby brought on his loyal and affectionate people, he would be graciously pleased to listen to the humble prayer and advice of his faithful Commons, that the war on the continent of North America might no longer be pursued, for the impracticable purpose of reducing that country to obedience by force: and expressing their hope, that the earnest desire and diligent exertion to restore the public tranquillity, of which they had received his Majesty’s most gracious assurances, might, by an happy reconciliation with the revolted colonies, be forwarded and made effectual; to which great end his Majesty’s faithful Commons would be ready most cheerfully to give their utmost assistance.” This motion called forth all the powers of both parties. The arguments which had already been employed on this subject, were now repeated: but it evidently appeared, at the close of the debate, that the strength of the ministry was in a rapid decline, as the address was negatived by a majority of only one voice: 193 appearing for it, and 194 against it.

In full confidence of obtaining a decided majority, General Conway renewed his motion on the 27th of the same month, in a somewhat different form. On that day, a petition from the city of London was presented to the House, soliciting the House to interpose in such a manner, as should prevent any further prosecution of the American war: after which, General Conway moved, “That it should be resolved, that it was the opinion of that House, that the further prosecution of offensive war on the continent of North America, for the purpose of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience, by force, would be the means of weakening the efforts of
this

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1782 this country against her European enemies, and tend, under the present circumstances, dangerously to encrease the mutual enmity, so fatal to the interests both of Great Britain and America; and, by preventing an happy reconciliation with that country, to frustrate the earnest desire graciously expressed by his Majesty to restore the blessings of public tranquillity."

Among other arguments that were brought to prove the prodigious disadvantage attending an American war, it was asserted that, upon the clearest computation, France expended no more than 40*l.* sterling for every man she had sent to the assistance of the Americans, while Great Britain paid no less than 100*l.* This great difference was enhanced to a most alarming degree, when the disparity of the numbers maintained by the two contending kingdoms was taken into consideration. At the time of the reduction of the army under Lord Cornwallis, the period at which the French troops were most numerous in America, they amounted to no more than 8000 men, and, at other times, had not exceeded 5000; while the British forces on the American establishment, had been paid for at the rate of 70,000.

The answers of administration were not unaccompanied with strong arguments in support of them. The measures in contemplation with regard to America, were represented as founded on the most obvious expediency. While the colonies continue at war with this country, it would be highly imprudent to act as if we were at peace with them: it would betray a timidity and a fear of offending them, unworthy the character of the British nation. It would expose us to their contempt, and instead of accelerating the work of peace, would incline them to treat us with haughtiness, and to assume a stile of superiority which would naturally tend to throw obstructions in the way of that reconciliation which was so much and so universally desired.—Such, it was said, ought to be the future plan of acting with the Americans, as to convince them, that though the British nation was willing to be reconciled with the colonies, yet it was fully determined not to degrade itself, by any mean or unworthy concessions; but, on the contrary, to hold out terms entirely compatible with its honour, as well as advantageous to them; and, in the mean time, to preserve a firm and resolute conduct, equally removed from pride or from fear.

It was also observed by a great law officer, that there were several obstacles to be removed in order to treat of peace with America, which the House did not seem to recollect. At that moment, several acts of Parliament were in existence, which would prove insuperable bars to such an attempt. He, therefore, recommended a truce, as a necessary preliminary step, during the continuance of which, the enmity, occasioned by the violence of the contest, might subside, and each party, being at leisure to consult their real interests, might, at length, accede to terms of peace; which, having undergone a slow and temperate discussion, might prove more honourable and advantageous, as well as more likely to secure a permanent union, than those resulting from sudden overtures and similar acquiescence. He declared his intention of bringing in a bill, with the permission of the House, for these purposes; and he, in consequence, moved, "That the present debate be adjourned to the 13th day of the ensuing March." The House divided upon the motion, when there appeared for it 215, and against it 234; so that there was a majority of 19 against the ministry. The original motion was put and carried without a division. The General immediately followed this motion with another for an address to the King, in which his Majesty was solicited to put a stop to any further prosecution of offensive war against the colonies. This was also agreed to, as well as that the address should be presented to his Majesty by the whole House. The address was accordingly presented on the first of March, when his Majesty, in answer, declared, "That there were no objects nearer to

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1782 his heart than the ease, happiness, and prosperity of his people; and that the House of Commons might be assured, that, in pursuance of their advice, he should take such measures, as should appear to him to be most conducive to the restoration of harmony between Great Britain and her revolted colonies, so essential to the prosperity of both; and that his efforts should be directed, in the most effectual manner, against our European enemies, until such a peace could be obtained, as should consist with the interests and permanent welfare of his kingdoms."

This parliamentary determination against any further prosecution of the American war, was a most important event, and diffused a very considerable degree of joy throughout the kingdom, as it had such an evident tendency towards accelerating that peace, which the interests of the nation so indispensably required; and as every rank of people were now become weary of that unhappy contest with the colonies, which had been productive of nothing but national calamity and disgrace, an enormous load of taxes, and an immense augmentation of the national debt.

But though the proceedings of the House of Commons, in addressing his Majesty against any further prosecution of the American war, gave very general satisfaction, it was thought by many, that the royal answer was not sufficiently explicit. On this principle, therefore, General Conway moved, on the 4th of March, "That an humble address should be presented to his Majesty, to return his Majesty the thanks of that House, for his gracious answer to their address presented to him on Friday the first of that month, and for the assurances he had been pleased to give them of his intention, in pursuance of the advice of that House, to take such measures as should appear most conducive to the restoration of harmony between Great Britain and the revolted Colonies, &c.; that House being convinced that nothing could, in the present circumstances of this country, so essentially promote those great objects of his Majesty's paternal care for his people, as the measures which his most faithful Commons had most humbly, but earnestly recommended to his Majesty." This motion was agreed to, *nemine contradicente*; after which, the General made a second motion, that it should be resolved by that House, "That after the solemn declaration of the opinion of that House in their address to his Majesty, &c. and his Majesty's assurance, &c. that House would consider as enemies to his Majesty and this country, all those who should endeavour to frustrate his Majesty's paternal care for the ease and happiness of his people, by advising, or by any means attempting, the further prosecution of offensive war on the continent of North America, for the purpose of reducing the revolted colonies to obedience by force.

Notwithstanding the majority which had lately appeared in the House of Commons against the ministry, they did not discover any disposition to resign. To bring matters, however, to this issue, the members of the opposition continued to employ the most vigorous efforts; and, on the 8th of March, a motion was made in the House of Commons, by Lord John Cavendish, that it should be resolved, "That it appeared to that House, that since the year 1775, upwards of one hundred millions of money had been expended on the army and navy, in a fruitless war:" which was followed up with three other resolutions.

First, "That it appears to this House, that during the above period, we have lost the thirteen colonies of America, which anciently did belong to the crown of Great Britain, (except the ports of New York, Charlestown and Savannah,) the newly acquired colony of Florida, many of our valuable West India and other islands, and those few that remain are in the most imminent danger."

Secondly,

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Secondly, "That it appears to this House, that Great Britain is at present engaged in an expensive war with France, Spain and Holland, without a single ally."

Thirdly, "That it appears to this House, that the chief cause of all these misfortunes, is want of foresight and ability in his Majesty's ministers."

The moving of these resolutions, occasioned one of the warmest and most acrimonious debates that ever took place in the House of Commons. The three first resolutions were self-evident, but the fourth was of a nature to employ the utmost powers of both parties in the attack and defence of it. The House of Commons had not been so full during the course of many years, as on the debating this very interesting question: no less than 480 members were present, and at two o'clock in the morning, the House divided on a motion for the order of the day, which had been made by the Secretary at War, and which was carried by a majority of ten.

Such an inconsiderable majority on a question of such magnitude, and wherein the ministers were so directly and personally attacked, was a kind of signal to renew the charge against them:—notice was accordingly given that the motion would be repeated; and, on the 15th of March, a motion was made by Sir John Rous, in which, after reciting the facts contained in the resolutions made on the 8th, it was proposed to resolve, "That in consideration thereof, the House could have no further confidence in the ministers who had the direction of public affairs." The question was negatived by a majority only of nine. Notice was also given at the close of this division, that a motion to the same effect would be made on the Wednesday following.

On that day, the 20th of March, the House being extremely crowded, Lord Surry was preparing to make the promised motion, when Lord North informed the House, as he understood the motion about to be made was similar to one which had been made a few days before, that it was become wholly unnecessary, as the administration, against which it was levelled, no longer existed, the King having come to a determination to change his ministers. He moved, in consequence, for an adjournment, that leisure might be given for the new ministerial arrangement.

Previous to the meeting of Parliament after the Christmas recess, there was no very great expectation formed of any change in the administration; but, the calamities occasioned by the American war, the enormous weight of taxes, and the diminution of the value of landed property, at length awakened the fears of those country gentlemen who had generally voted with the ministry. They saw the dangers to which the nation was exposed, they felt the pressure of the public burthens, and they deserted from the standard of administration. The ministerial majorities of course began to diminish, the opposition became much increased in numbers, and a complete revolution in the administration was at length effected.

On the 27th of March, the following arrangements took place in the administration. The Marquis of Rockingham was appointed first Lord of the Treasury; Lord John Cavendish Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Earl of Shelburne and Mr. Fox, Secretaries of State; Admiral Keppel, first Lord of the Admiralty; General Conway, Commander in Chief of the Forces, &c. &c.

Such a complete and radical change of his Majesty's ministers, at such a moment of general distress and alarm, and from whence a new, and as it was hoped, a more successful plan of public measures would proceed, was followed by a very considerable degree of national satisfaction. It was one of those important events which, by giving a new turn to the operations

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1782 of government, furnished those hopes which raised declining and gave animation to drooping commerce. We, therefore, have not gone beyond our proper limits, in tracing the progress of it.

The first step of public consequence taken by the new ministry, was to remove the cause of those jealousies that had so long subsisted in Ireland, by procuring the repeal of such acts as were most obnoxious and oppressive to that kingdom. But as the arrangement which afterwards took place between Great Britain and Ireland, and the new position in which the latter was placed in consequence of it, is a great commercial object, we shall give a brief account of what had passed in the sister kingdom previous to the measures adopted by the British Parliament relative to it.

At a meeting of the representatives of 143 corps of volunteers of the province of Ulster, held at Dungannon on the 15th of February in this year, it was resolved, that a claim of any body of men, other than the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland, to make laws to bind that kingdom, was unconstitutional, illegal, and a grievance; that the power exercised by the Privy Councils of both kingdoms, under colour or pretence of the law of Poynings, were unconstitutional and a grievance; that a mutiny bill not limited, in point of duration, from session to session, was unconstitutional and a grievance; and that the ports of that country were, by right, open to all foreign countries, not at war with the King; and that any burthen thereupon, or obstruction thereto, save only by the Parliament of Ireland, was unconstitutional, illegal, and a grievance. It having been asserted that volunteers, as such, could not, with propriety debate, or publish their opinions on political subjects, or on the conduct of Parliament or parliamentary men, they resolved, that a citizen, by learning the use of arms, did not abandon any of his civil rights; and they declared, that it was their decided and unalterable determination to seek a redress of the public grievances, and to use all constitutional means to make such their pursuit of redress speedy and effectual.

One of the most firm, vigorous, and eloquent assertors of the independence of the Parliament of Ireland was Mr. Grattan, and that gentleman, a few days after the meeting held at Dungannon, moved, in the Irish House of Commons, a long and spirited address to his Majesty, declarative of the rights of Ireland, and asserting, that no other power but the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland were competent to make laws for that kingdom, though that power had been assumed by the British Parliament. This motion, after a long debate, was rejected by a considerable majority. This repulse, however, did not prevent Mr. Grattan from continuing to urge his countrymen, with the utmost ardour, not to desist from their attempts, till they had obtained the object of their pursuit.

Such was the state of affairs in the sister kingdom, when Mr. Eden, Secretary to the Earl of Carlisle, who was just removed from the vice-royalty, in favour of the Duke of Portland, arrived in England in consequence of the late change of administration. On the 8th of April, which was the first day of the meeting of Parliament after the recess, that gentleman brought the affairs of Ireland rather unexpectedly before the House. In a speech of considerable length, he gave an account of those transactions which we have already noticed. He also remarked, that though, in consequence of the acts passed, in the year 1780, Ireland had emerged from laws, which, for a length of time, had fettered all her industry and commerce, yet the increase of the opulence of the kingdom, was not equal to those sanguine expectations, which were entertained by numbers, amidst the first dreams of the extensive benefits which would accompany a free trade; and, therefore, they looked back with dread upon the English laws, and resolved

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1782 to assert the independence of their own Parliament, upon that of Great Britain. He avoided all enquiry, whether this was a question of right or of power. It had, however, been exercised for a long period of years, but could be exercised no longer,—and even if it could, no benefit would result from it, since the system of restraining Irish commerce had been wisely discontinued. He was, however, convinced, from the present disposition of the people of Ireland, that it was absolutely necessary to repeal so much of the act of the sixth of George I. as asserted the right in the King and Parliament of Great Britain to make laws to bind the kingdom and people of Ireland. And he accordingly moved for leave to bring in a bill for that purpose.

The opposition made by the ministry to an immediate acquiescence with this motion, was on the following grounds. It was asserted, that it was not from any indisposition in ministers to do ample justice to the sister kingdom, that they had not, on the very first day of their appearing in Parliament, in their official characters, proposed such measures as were, in their opinion, calculated to conciliate the affections of the Irish, and terminate the uneasinesses, the jealousies, and the tumults which had subsisted, and continued to subsist, in that injured and irritated country: it was not from the least disinclination to put Ireland in possession of her actual rights, that they had not immediately proceeded to decisive steps; but because they disdained to catch, with equal eagerness and want of policy, at the expedient of the minute, and to patch up a present difficulty on any terms, rather than meet it fairly, and endeavour to discover as well as pursue the most substantial and lasting modes of remedying a real evil and preventing its return. It was with a view to settle the constitution of the two countries in such a manner as should prove perfectly satisfactory to England and Ireland, and promise to afford a lasting harmony to both, that they had paused upon the subject. It was also officially declared, that, during the very short time ministers had been in office, they had held several councils on the affairs of Ireland, and proposed very shortly to offer some preparatory measures to Parliament relative to them. After some further debate, Mr. Eden agreed to withdraw his motion.

Nor did ministers fail in proving the sincerity of their assertion,—for on the very next day the Secretary of State brought a message from his Majesty, to inform the House, “That being concerned to find discontents and jealousies prevailing amongst his loyal subjects in Ireland, on matters of great weight and importance, he earnestly recommended to the House to take the same into their most serious consideration, in order to make such a final adjustment, as might give mutual satisfaction to both kingdoms. A message to the same effect was delivered to the Lords, the first day of their meeting, and addresses were unanimously voted by both Houses.

If ever there was a matter that required the precautions of deliberative wisdom, it was that which now occupied the attentions of the British government. It was now evident, from the pretensions of the Irish, expressed by the Parliament and the people, that the matter contained no less than the constitution of the kingdom; that it comprehended not only all commercial rights and privileges, but also the legislative and sovereign powers. The most important objects were, therefore, embraced, and both nations were most materially concerned in the discussion and settlement of a matter of such consequence. It was a subject on which the King could not decide without the assistance of his Parliament; nor, indeed, could it be done without the concurring operation of the Parliaments of both kingdoms. To enter, therefore, into the business with propriety, and in a manner which would give effect to their proceedings, it was necessary to have full and authentic information, and that both Parliaments should not only

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1782 only take time in their deliberations, but give each other, in the progress of this important business, all possible aid and assistance, in order to forward an happy termination of it. The object of the present moment was, to settle the true quality and the nature of the relationship which subsisted between the two countries, to ascertain their distinct constitutions, and to establish such an union and connection between them as should endure for ages.

On the 16th of April, which was within a few days after his Majesty's message to the British Parliament, Mr. Grattan moved, in the House of Commons of Ireland, a declaration of rights, under the form of an address to the throne, which, after some debate, was agreed to without a division. In this address it was declared, that his Majesty's subjects of Ireland were a free people; that the crown of Ireland was an imperial crown, inseparably annexed to the crown of Great Britain, on which connection the interest and happiness of both nations essentially depend; but that the kingdom of Ireland was a distinct kingdom, with a Parliament of her own, the sole legislature thereof. That there was no body of men competent to make laws to bind that nation, except the King, Lords and Commons of Ireland; nor any other Parliament which had any authority or power of any sort whatever, in that country, save only the Parliament of Ireland. They assured his Majesty, that they humbly conceived, that in this right the very essence of their liberty existed: it was a right which they, on the part of all the people of Ireland, claimed as their birth-right, and which they could not yield but with their lives. They declared, that they considered the claims of the Parliament of Great Britain, in the act passed for the better securing the dependency of Ireland, to be irreconcilable to the fundamental rights of that nation, and a great and principal cause of the discontents and jealousies in that kingdom. Among the grievances of Ireland, they likewise mentioned the perpetual mutiny act, and the practice of suppressing their bills in the council of Ireland, or altering the same any where. They remained, they said, in humble expectation of a redress of these grievances; and, after the strongest expressions of regard for the British people, it declares the determination of Ireland, on partaking the freedom of England, to share her fate, and stand or fall with the British nation.

These proceedings of the Irish Parliament occasioned the utmost joy and exultation in that country, and so high was the public opinion of the services of Mr. Grattan, the great and eloquent leader of the popular party, that Parliament voted the sum of 50,000*l.* for purchasing an estate for that gentleman and erecting an house thereon, which were to be settled on him and the heirs of his body, as a testimony of their gratitude for the unparalleled benefits conferred by him on that kingdom.

On the 18th of May, the British House of Commons was resolved into a committee of the whole House, in order to take into consideration the affairs of Ireland, when the following resolutions were agreed to *nemine contradicente*:—

First, "That it was the opinion of that House, that the act of the sixth of George I. entitled, 'An Act for the better securing the Dependency of Ireland upon the Crown of Great Britain,' be repealed."

Secondly, "That it was the opinion of that House, that it was indispensable to the interest and happiness of both kingdoms, that the connection between them should be established by mutual consent upon a solid and permanent footing."

The same resolutions were also agreed to on the same day in the House of Lords. In consequence of these measures, an act was afterwards passed, by which the act of the sixth of George I. was repealed, which was, in fact, a renunciation, on the part of the British Parliament,

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1782 liament, of any right to legislate in Ireland. The perpetual mutiny bill was also repealed in Ireland, and another passed of a temporary nature. The appellant jurisdiction of the British House of Peers in Irish causes, was likewise given up.

On the 27th of the same month, the Duke of Portland went in state to the Irish House of Peers; and, in a speech to both houses of Parliament, acquainted them with the steps that had been taken by the British legislature, in compliance with their demands: in consequence of which, both houses addressed the King, expressing their perfect satisfaction in the measures proposed, and their assurances, that as soon as they should be carried into effect, no constitutional question between the two countries would any longer exist.

In return for this liberal proceeding of the British government, in relinquishing its claims, without any stipulation or condition whatever, the Parliament of Ireland immediately voted 100,000*l.* for the purpose of raising 20,000 Irish seamen, for the service of his Majesty's navy.

The affairs of the East India Company, and the condition of their possessions, still continued to be a frequent subject of parliamentary consideration and discussion.—The two committees on Indian affairs continued to sit during the whole session, with unremitting diligence and application: their reports were voluminous beyond all example. On moving that the reports which had been made from the secret committee, should be referred to the consideration of a committee of the whole House, the following information was given on the finances of the East India Company in the different presidencies.

It appeared that the revenue of Bombay fell short of its necessary civil and military investments 200,000*l.* annually, which were always drawn from Bengal.—As to the revenue of Madras presidency, it appeared that, upon an average of twelve years, from the year 1767, to the close of the year 1779, there had been eight years of peace, and four years of war: and during the war, the revenue did not reach to the amount of the civil and military investments; though, in time of peace, there was an excess of revenue amounting to nearly one half as much as the expence. Though Bengal, of all the possessions in India is the most fertile and productive, yet such had been the expences of the Mahratta war, that the governor-general had been obliged to contract so large a debt, as to make it doubtful whether the investments for England would be wholly or partially suspended. On the ground of the reports brought up from the secret committee, their chairman, on the 28th of May, moved 111 resolutions: these were divided into classes, each of which consisted of three distinct heads.—The two first, of a public and general nature; the third, of personal culpability.

On the 15th of April, both houses of Parliament received the following message:—"His Majesty, taking into consideration the supplies which have been given with so much liberality, and supported with such uncommon firmness and fortitude by his people, in the present extensive war, recommends to his faithful Commons, the consideration of an effectual plan of œconomy through all the branches of the public expenditure; towards which important object, his Majesty has taken into his actual consideration a form and regulation in his civil establishment, which he will shortly cause to be laid before this House, desiring their assistance towards carrying the same more fully into execution. His Majesty has no reserves with his people; on whose affections he rests with a sure reliance, as the best support of the true honour and dignity of his crown and government: and as they have hitherto been his best resource upon every emergency, so he regards them as the most solid and stable security for an honourable provision for his person and family."—This message was followed by the addresses usual on such an occasion; and, at a succeeding period, a bill was brought into Parliament for en-

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1782 enabling his Majesty to discharge the debt on the civil list revenues, and for preventing the same from being in arrear for the future, by regulating the mode of payments out of the said revenues, and by suppressing or regulating certain offices therein mentioned. It was proposed by this new bill, that the board of trade, the office of third secretary of state, with several other offices, &c. should be abolished; by which various savings would be made, to the amount of about 72,368*l.* per annum.

During the course of this session, a bill was passed for disqualifying revenue officers from voting at elections. A bill also for excluding contractors from being members of the House of Commons, which had been attempted in two former sessions, without success, now passed both Houses, and received the royal assent.

On the 11th of July Parliament was prorogued:—An ardent desire of peace, but a determination not to submit to any pacification but on fair and honourable terms, form the substance of his Majesty's speech on the occasion.

While the destiny of the North American portion of the British empire seemed to approach to a final decision in the west, the fate of its immense and valuable possessions in the east hung in suspense.—The successes obtained over Hyder Ally and his French and Dutch allies were great; but the resources of that Indian Prince, supported by his uncommon abilities, and the assistance he was to derive from these two confederate powers, were matters of serious consideration to Great Britain: for though our affairs in that quarter, at the moment we are describing, had assumed a more favourable aspect, their situation still continued alarming and critical. It was impossible to forget to what extremities the British power had been lately reduced in that part of its dominion, and with what difficulty and good fortune it had emerged from them; not only contrary to the expectation of its enemies, but, in a great degree, beyond the hopes of its warmest friends. It was natural to suppose that France would strain every nerve to effectuate its ruin; and it was well known that a powerful French squadron was now in the Indian seas, prepared to co-operate with the naval strength of Holland for that purpose, while Hyder Ally renewed his attacks by land.

In the mean time, the preceding campaign had terminated greatly to the advantage of the English.—Exclusive of the victories obtained over Hyder Ally in the field, they had concluded by the capture of Negapatnam, the principal settlement of the Dutch on the coast of Coromandel, which was taken by Sir Edward Hughes and General Monro, after a siege of three weeks. The loss of this place was the severest blow the Dutch could possibly have received in that quarter; and, besides the intrinsic detriment done to their interest, had damped their expectations of success, and checked their ardour for enterprize.

While they were under the discouraging impressions arising from such a severe and unexpected loss, Sir Edward Hughes determined to attempt the execution of a plan he had projected against Trincomale, in the island of Ceylon, one of the most important possessions of Holland in the Indian ocean.

This settlement is situated on the northern coast of that island, verging to the east; lying on a spacious and secure bay, which, with several others adjoining to it, forms the most capacious sea-port in all India. The spices it produces, especially cinnamon, render it, in point of value, one of the richest acquisitions that ever fell into the possession of the Dutch nation.

These were sufficient motives to induce the British admiral to proceed, with all convenient expedition, against a place, the reduction of which would be attended with so many and such manifest advantages. As soon, therefore, as he had weathered out the monsoon, which set in

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1782 immediately after the surrender of Negapatnam, he set sail for Trincomale, where he arrived in the very beginning of January in this year.

Having taken possession of the principal bay, he landed a detachment of seamen, marines, &c. who soon mastered the fort called Trincomale, an object of great importance, as it commanded the chief landing place, and afforded the means of setting ashore whatever might be requisite for the attack of fort Ostenburgh, the strongest place on the island, and by the capture of which the settlement would be completely reduced. A detachment of sailors and marines having taken possession of a hill which commanded this fort, Sir Edward Hughes sent a summons of surrender to the Dutch governor; who returned for answer, that he was bound in duty and honour to defend the fort to the last extremity.

The British admiral, after several subsequent endeavours to prevent an attack by storm, was forced, at length, on the 11th of January, to employ that violent mode of conquest; which, however, he tempered with his known humanity, as the victors gave quarter the moment the vanquished demanded it. The acquisitions made on this occasion, were two Indiamen richly laden, besides a number of smaller trading vessels. The fort itself was well provided with artillery, and contained a large quantity of ammunition and military stores. The prisoners amounted to about 400 Europeans of different denominations.

The capture of Trincomale was the second very severe blow given to the Dutch in the East Indies by Sir Edward Hughes.—It was heavily felt in Holland; where, on receiving intelligence of this loss, the clamours against the war with Great Britain were renewed with augmented violence. The complaint urged on this occasion with the greatest vehemence was, that by embracing the cause of France, Holland not only sustained very heavy losses, but had incurred the greatest misfortune that could befall an independent state; it was now forced to look up to France for protection, and had thereby forfeited its consequence in Europe,—discovered its internal weakness,—and now lay at the mercy not only of the enemy it had made by its submission to the French court, but even at the mercy of the court of France itself.

In the mean time, M. De Suffrein, the French admiral, was making the utmost expedition to the coast of Coromandel, and on the 15th of February he appeared off Madras, with twelve ships of the line, including the Hannibal of 50 guns, which he had lately taken, six strong frigates, eight large transports, full of troops, and six British prizes. The French admiral found Sir Edward Hughes in Madras road, whither he had repaired soon after the reduction of Trincomale, to take in stores and provisions, and put his sick on shore. The English fleet consisted of nine sail of the line. On the 18th, after Sir Edward Hughes had retaken five of the British prizes, and a French transport of 1500 tons, laden with a numerous train of field artillery, and a prodigious quantity of military stores, besides near 300 regular troops, he came to an engagement with the French fleet; which, after being contested with great courage on both sides, terminated with the close of the day. The next morning, the French being no longer visible, the English admiral proceeded to Trincomale, to refit.

On the 8th of April, these two brave officers came to a second engagement off the island of Ceylon, which was continued with equal vigour till late in the evening, without any decided advantage on either side. As, since the last contest, the enemy's fleet had been reinforced by two ships of the line, in addition to their former superiority, to make an effectual stand against such a disproportionate strength, was more honourable, in many cases, than decisive victory.

While the British squadron was opposing, with so much vigour and efficacy, the designs of M. De Suffrein on the coast of Coromandel, Hyder Ally formed a complete blockade of the English settlement of Tellicherry, on the coast of Malabar, in order to reduce it by famine.

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But early in the morning of the 8th of January, Major Abingdon made a bold, spirited, and unexpected attack upon the besiegers, in their own works, and drove them to their camp: this was assaulted also with equal success; 1500 prisoners taken,—400 slain on the spot, and a large quantity of provisions, artillery, ammunition, and military stores, with a considerable sum of money, fell into the hands of the victors. This success gave the English entire possession of all the territory adjacent to Tellicherry, and opened a communication with the British posts in the neighbourhood. It also, which was a very important circumstance, led to an entrance into the principal countries under the dominion of Hyder Ally.

But the success of the British arms in this quarter, was shortly retaliated, in a very severe manner, on the banks of the Coleroon, a river that bounds the district of Tanjour to the north. A detachment of 2000 infantry, and about 300 cavalry, from Sir Eyre Coote's army, lay encamped on its banks, for the protection of the Company's possessions to the south of Madras. This small army, which was commanded by a Colonel Braithwaite, an officer of known bravery and experience, was attacked on the 16th of February in this year, by Tippoo Saib, with an army of 20,000 men, (the flower of his father's army) a proportionate train of artillery, and about 400 French troops, commanded by Monsieur Lally. After three days brave and glorious resistance,—surrounded with enemies,—and attacked, on the third, by the reserved corps of French troops, they were obliged to yield; gaining more reputation by their defence, than the conquerors acquired by their victory.

This unfortunate event on the banks of the Coleroon, revived, in some degree, the courage and hopes of Hyder Ally. He also received an additional motive of encouragement from the success which his forces obtained, in conjunction with the European troops that came from the islands of Bourbon and Mauritius, under the command of M. Duchemin. They invested Cuddalore, a place of sufficient strength, and great importance; which being unprovided for any length of defence, surrendered on capitulation on the 8th of April: in the same manner they besieged and took Permacoil; after which, being joined by Hyder Ally, at the head of a numerous army, their views were directed to a joint attack upon Vandiwash, a place of the greatest consequence to the English at the present crisis.

The dangerous situation of our affairs in India, had, for a considerable time, exercised the attention of the supreme seat of government at Bengal. The principal object, among the various difficulties in which they were involved, was to bring about a separate accommodation with the Mahrattas; the gaining of which point, would enable them to direct their whole strength and efforts against Hyder Ally; whom they considered, if not a more potent, at least a more implacable enemy.

An opening to a general pacification with the Mahrattas had already been made by a treaty previously concluded with Madajee Scindia, one of the most considerable chiefs of that nation. Through his mediation, terms of reconciliation were at length settled between the residue of his countrymen and the English, which were very favourable to the latter. Among other particulars, the former engaged themselves to oblige Hyder Ally to restore to the English and their allies all the places he had taken from them, &c. &c. But the most important article of this treaty was that by which the Mahrattas agreed to permit no other European nation to settle factories in any part of their dependencies. As a compensation for this concession, the English were bound, on the other hand, to afford no assistance or countenance whatsoever to any Indian state or nation at enmity with the Mahrattas, &c.

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1782 This negotiation, which was extremely beneficial to the English, and established their power and interest in India upon the most secure and permanent foundation, was indebted, in a very great degree, for its success, to the talents and activity exerted upon this critical occasion by Mr. Anderson, who was deputed by the governor and council of Bengal. It was signed by both parties on the 17th of May, 1782, and confirmed at Calcutta on the third of the following month.

The conclusion of this treaty was a severe blow to Hyder Ally. He now beheld his formidable enemy freed from that powerful diversion, which the war with the Mahrattas had occasioned in his favour: but this was not all;—the very people whose alliance had been efficacious in the prosecution of his present plan, were now become his enemies, and engaged to co-operate against him in defeating it. His dependence on the promised aid of the French, had proved to be, in a great measure, ill-founded. He was sufficiently sagacious and well informed to perceive, that they could not effectually support him but by gaining a decided superiority at sea; which, with a far superior force, they had not yet been able to obtain: so that, notwithstanding the successes of his son, Tippoo Saib, he appeared very unwilling to hazard a general action with the English.

Upon Hyder Ally's moving towards Vandiwash, Sir Eyre Coote marched immediately to protect it. The Eastern Prince avoided that engagement which the British General so eagerly courted. At length, however, by a well-concerted movement of the latter, Hyder Ally was forced to risk what he seemed so much to fear, and, on the second of June, a very decisive action took place between the two armies; when a complete victory was obtained by the British troops:—the enemy were entirely routed and put to flight. But the want of cavalry prevented Sir Eyre Coote from pursuing his advantages. From the difficulty of subsisting, the necessity of providing for the sick and wounded, together with the excessive heat of the season, Sir Eyre Coote moved nearer to Madras, where the increasing ill state of his health obliged that able officer to relinquish the command of the British forces to General Stuart.

On the 5th of July, another action took place off Negapatnam, between Sir Edward Hughes and M. de Suffrein, in which the former had the advantage,—and had not an unexpected alteration of wind interposed, the English would have gained a most complete victory.

After this engagement, the French Admiral withdrew to Cuddalore to refit, and availing himself of some considerable reinforcements both of ships and troops, he put to sea in the beginning of August in order to make an attempt upon Trincomale. On being informed of his design, the English Admiral sailed immediately to the relief of that place; but, on his arrival off Trincomale, on the second of September, he found that it had, two days before, surrendered to the French arms. On the next day, another engagement took place between the two fleets, wherein the English sustained their former character. They resisted and beat off the enemy, whose force was now increased to 15 ships of the line, and forced them to the shelter of Trincomale Bay. Sir Edward Hughes was obliged to bear away to Madras to refit, from whence the bad weather, on the setting in of the monsoon, compelled him to repair to Bombay; but his passage to that settlement was accompanied with such a continuance of boisterous weather, as to prevent his arrival there till towards the close of the present year. In the meantime, Sir Richard Bickerton, with a squadron of five ships of the line, was arrived at Bombay. Thus ended the naval campaign in the East Indies; and with some advantages gained over Tippoo Saib by the British troops on the Malabar coast, under the command of Colonel Macleod, the military campaign of 1782 concluded, in the same quarter of the globe.

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We must now return to other important objects, which solicit our attention, in our own hemisphere.

The sieges of Gibraltar and Minorca were still carried on by the united forces of the House of Bourbon, with the utmost spirit and activity, and both places were defended with unabated firmness and obstinacy by their respective garrisons. The courts of Versailles and Madrid, however they might consider the reduction of Gibraltar as a matter of doubt, they entertained not the least idea but that Minorca would be very shortly reduced. In order to justify the expectation of both the French and Spanish nations, every possible measure was taken to give success to this enterprize. The army that besieged the place was little short of 20,000 men, and consisted of chosen troops. The battering train amounted to 120 cannon, and 40 mortars of the largest dimensions. The most expert engineers in France conducted the attacks, and one of their best and bravest Generals commanded their army. The garrison, on the other hand, amounted to no more than 2,700 men, and 500 of these had been drafted from the corps of invalids in England. The strength of the works they had to defend was of a very superior nature; but they were so spacious, and in such numbers, as to demand twice the garrison which now did duty within them. The besieged, however, did all that could be effected by skill, courage, and resolution; but the superiority with which they had to contend, both in respect of numbers and artillery, was so great as to put their utmost fortitude to the trial. But this was not all, for while the French and Spanish army attacked them from without, a far more dreadful and dangerous enemy had taken possession of the place within, and committed such ravages among the besieged, as were far more destructive than those they suffered from the exertions of the enemy. The communication with the country being entirely cut off, no supplies of vegetables could be conveyed to the garrison, who were consequently reduced to the necessity of subsisting on salt provisions. This, added to other circumstances, brought on the scurvy, which increased, in a short time, to such a deplorable degree, as to baffle all endeavours to suppress or even alleviate its horrid effects. In short, after sustaining with unexampled perseverance the miseries of their situation, the garrison was, in the beginning of February in this year, so enfeebled, that the number of men able to do duty amounted to no more than 660, which was not a great deal more than was required by the necessary guards.

In this extremity, the governor, General Murray, proposed terms of capitulation, and the most honourable were granted to him and his brave garrison, by a generous and admiring enemy. On the fifth of February, the fortrefs of St. Phillip, after a siege of six months, was delivered up to the combined forces of France and Spain.

Thus did the island of Minorca return to the dominion of Spain, after it had been (except during a short period of the last war, when it was taken by the French,) in the possession of Great Britain since the year 1708, when it was taken by Sir John Leake and General, afterwards Earl, Stanhope, and had, together with Gibraltar, been considered as one of the noblest trophies, and most valuable acquisitions to Great Britain, during the triumphant reign of Queen Anne.

The loss of Minorca was accompanied by events which gave a very unpropitious appearance to the commencement of the present year. In the preceding November, the islands of St. Eustatius, St. Martin's, and Saba, were surprized and taken by the French,—and, on the third of February, 1782, the settlements of Demerary and Issequibo, on the coast of Guiana, were retaken by the same power.

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But these successes, though very mortifying to the British nation, were shortly followed by an attempt of much greater importance. The old and valuable island of St. Christopher, was doomed to be the next branch that was to be lopped off from the British empire. On the 11th of January, in this year, the Marquis de Bouillé landed 8,000 men on the island, which was by no means in a condition to make a vigorous defence, the garrison consisting of no more than 600 effective regular troops. The only place of strength in the island was Brimstone-hill, situated on the shore, near the town of Sandy Point, which it overlooks and commands. Though there were some fortifications on the summit of the hill, its natural strength was its best security, being of great height, and of so difficult access, as to render an ascent almost impracticable against a very moderate force to defend it.

On the landing of the French army, which, from the greatness of its force, could not be prevented, General Frazer, the British commanding officer, retired to Brimstone-hill. The whole of his strength, besides the regulars above-mentioned, did not exceed 400 militia, which had been brought to his assistance by Governor Shirley; and twice the number that composed the garrison was scarcely adequate to a proper defence.

Admiral Hood did every thing that capacity and courage could effect to give essential relief to the island, but in vain; while the defenders of it exercised the utmost perseverance and fortitude in their endeavours to preserve it. During three weeks, the fire of the enemy was incessant, till all the constructions of every kind upon the hill were destroyed, and the garrison deprived of all shelter. In this state of extremity, after a siege of five weeks, it was thought necessary to capitulate. The garrison were allowed the honours of war, and the inhabitants were secured in the possession of their estates and property, &c. The reduction of this island took place on the 13th of February, in the present year. The islands of Nevis and Montserrat shared the ill-fortune of St. Christophers, so that of all our former numerous possessions in the West Indies, Jamaica, Barbadoes and Antigua, now alone remained.

On the 19th of the same month, Sir George Rodney arrived at Barbadoes with fifteen capital ships, where he formed a junction with Sir Samuel Hood, and took upon him the command of the fleet, which now consisted of 37 ships of the line. The first object with the English Admiral, was to intercept a convoy from Brest, which was conveying naval stores, artillery, ammunition, and other supplies to the Count de Grasse; which, after all, escaped the well-concerted plan to intercept it, and arrived safe at Martinico.

In consequence of this disappointment, Sir George Rodney repaired to St. Lucia, where he took in provisions for five or six months, with a determination to follow the French fleet, the moment it sailed from Martinico, wherever it should direct its course. The design of the French Admiral, was to proceed with all diligence to Hispaniola, where Don Solano was waiting for him, with sixteen ships of the line and a numerous body of land forces. These, added to the French fleet and troops, were to have formed a joint attack upon the island of Jamaica. The great importance of preventing this junction, and of forcing M. de Grasse to an engagement before it took place, was a most important object with the British Admiral; for till this design was effected, the islands yet belonging to Great Britain could not be considered as in a state of security.

To the great satisfaction of the British commanders, they were informed, early in the morning of the 8th of April, by the signals made from the frigates of observation, that the French fleet was getting under way and steering to leeward. Sir George Rodney stood immediately after the enemy, and came up with them off Dominica towards the evening. Various
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1782 manœuvres were exercised by both fleets during the three following days, and a partial engagement took place between them. Towards the evening of the eleventh, some of the headmost ships of the British fleet approached so near to one of the enemy, which had suffered considerably in the late action, that it must have been inevitably captured, had not M. de Grasse bore down with his whole fleet, for its preservation. The movement he made for this purpose brought him so near the British fleet, that the English Admiral conceived immediate hopes of being able to force him to action the next day. With this expectation, he made such dispositions during the night, that it was evident at break of day, it was no longer in the enemy's power to avoid an engagement.

Not a moment was lost in preparing to engage the enemy. The signal for a close line of battle was thrown out, and obeyed with universal readiness by every ship in the fleet. The action was commenced about seven in the morning by Admiral Drake's division. Our ships, as they came up, ranged slowly and closely along the enemy's line, when they gave and received a most tremendous fire. They were so near, that every shot took place, and the French ships being crowded with troops, the carnage in them was prodigious. Some idea may be formed of the havoc that was made, from the *Formidable*, Sir George Rodney's ship, firing near fourscore broadsides. The engagement had continued with great resolution on both sides till about noon, when the British Admiral perceiving an opportunity of breaking the enemy's line of battle, resolved to improve it to the utmost of his power. He accordingly bore down upon the enemy's center with impetuous bravery, being seconded by three ships, and successfully broke through it. He was followed by the remainder of his division, and wearing round close upon the enemy, effectually separated their line, and threw them into inextricable confusion. This bold and unexpected motion decided the fortune of the day. The French, however, continued still to fight with the utmost bravery, and the battle lasted till sun set; which, in those latitudes, is almost succeeded by darkness.

Since the famous battle of La Hogue, in the year 1692, the French had not sustained such a complete and ruinous defeat as on this memorable day. Their fleet was almost ruined, and their loss of men amounted to an absolute carnage. The number of those who were actually slain in this engagement, was computed at 3,000, and the wounded at near twice that number. The whole loss of killed and wounded in the British fleet did not exceed 1,100.

The loss of shipping on the part of the enemy amounted to five taken, viz. one of 110, three of 74, and one of 64 guns: another of their line was sunk in the engagement. But the ship, the loss of which affected the French with more than common concern, was the *Ville de Paris*. She had been a present from the city of Paris to Louis XV. and is said to have cost 176,000*l.* sterling; she carried 110 guns, and had on board, at her departure from Martinico, 1,300 men, including marines and land troops. Thirty-six chests of money, destined for the pay and subsistence of the troops in the proposed invasion of Jamaica, were found in this ship. It was a singular instance of good fortune, that the whole train of artillery, with the battering cannon and travelling carriages, intended for the attack on Jamaica, happened to be on board the ships which were now taken.

The flying enemy were closely pursued by Commodore Affleck and the ships in company with him: he kept up a vigorous fire upon them, and continued the chase till night. On the morning of the next day they were no longer to be seen. As soon as it was light Admiral Rodney prepared for an immediate pursuit, but was prevented by a calm, which lasted three days. When it was ascertained that the enemy had sailed to leeward, Sir Admiral Hood's division

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1782 division was dispatched in search of them; and on the next day after leaving the fleet, he discovered five of the enemy's ships making towards the Mona Passage, between the east end of Hispaniola and the island of Porto Rico. After a short engagement, two ships of 64 guns and two frigates struck to the British flag. Sir Samuel Hood joined the fleet off Cape Tiberoon, and Sir George Rodney proceeded with the disabled ships and the prizes to Jamaica, as well for the purpose of refitting, as for the greater preservation of the island, if the combined enemy should still venture to make any attempt towards the prosecution of their former design.

In this manner were frustrated the designs of France and Spain in this part of the world: the first were now deprived of almost all the means they had prepared for the execution of them. Besides the loss of eight of their capital ships, and the shattered condition of many of the rest, they had lost the whole train of artillery belonging to their troops, and the military chest for the payment of them: so that, had they been inclined to persist in the pursuit of their undertakings, they must, in a great measure, have depended on the resources of their Spanish allies: but the latter was so affected by the late disaster, that they did not seem in the least disposed to exert any vigour towards a reparation of it. They shortly after returned to the Havannah, pursuing no other measures, for the present, but such as were requisite for their own safety.

This great and glorious naval victory not only secured our remaining possessions in the West Indies, but may be said to have closed the war in that part of the globe. It was still of greater importance in its general effects, from the sudden and unexpected change it produced in our situation,—from the high reputation which such an extraordinary and successful exertion afforded, and by the additional weight it gave us as a nation, whether for the further prosecution of the war or the accomplishment of peace.

North America afforded no military transaction of any consequence during this period.—The opposite armies at New York and its neighbourhood, were so nearly balanced with respect to force, and to the strength of their respective posts and defences, that little or no opportunity offered for enterprize on either side. This state of inactivity was happily confirmed by the resolutions of the British Parliament against the American war.

The Empress of Russia having offered her mediation in order to restore peace between Great Britain and Holland, Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State, wrote a letter to Monsieur Simolin, the Russian minister in London, dated March 29, informing him, that his Majesty was ready to enter into a negociation, for the purpose of setting on foot a treaty of peace, on the terms and conditions of that which was agreed to in 1674, between his Majesty and the republic of Holland; and that in order to facilitate such a treaty, he was willing to give immediate orders for a suspension of hostilities, if the States General were disposed to agree to that measure. In another letter, dated May 4, in answer to one he had received from the Russian minister, Mr. Secretary Fox took notice of the late change in his Majesty's councils, and observed, that his Majesty was willing to allow to the Dutch the entire liberty of navigation, according to the treaty of 1674, between Great Britain and the Republic; a treaty, by which the principles of the armed neutrality were established, in their widest extent, to all the contracting parties; and that his Majesty would accept, as the basis of a separate peace between him and the States General, a free navigation, according to the principles demanded by her Imperial Majesty, in her declaration of the 28th of February, 1780.

It would have been highly advantageous to Great Britain, at this time, to have made a separate peace with Holland, or even to obtain a cessation of hostilities with that power, as a preliminary step towards a pacification; but the French and American influence prevailed too

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1782 much in the councils of the United States, to expect any thing less than a refusal to acquiesce in the terms proposed by the mediation of her Imperial Majesty. Even while this negotiation was agitating, Mr. Adams was received by their High Mightinesses in quality of Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of North America.

The Dutch, who seem to have been destined to suffer in every part of their dominions for the ill-judged, and what may be called unnatural, part which they took in this war, were, about the same time, deprived of most of their settlements on the coast of Africa, by Captain Shirley, in the *Leander* of 50 guns; who, without any land forces, and with the assistance only of the *Alligator* sloop of war, took *Acra*, with four other Dutch forts, mounting altogether 124 pieces of cannon; and to complete their ruin on that coast, Lieutenant Cartwright, of the *Argo* frigate, having landed with a detachment of seamen, to support some land forces which were under the direction of the African Company, had a principal share in taking the strong and well garrisoned Dutch fort of *Commenda*.

On the other hand, M. de Vaudreuil, some time before his departure, with the remainder of the beaten fleet, from Cape François to North America, concerted an expedition, merely prædatory, against the remote possessions and property of the Hudson's Bay Company. M. de la Perouse was appointed to command a small squadron properly equipped for this purpose.—He sailed from Cape François on the 31st of May, and did not arrive at the islands of Resolution, which mark the entrance of Hudson's Straits, till the 27th of July. After encountering the known difficulties and dangers of the voyage, they arrived on the 8th within sight of Port Prince of Wales, upon the Churchill river. The Company possess six of those buildings, which are called Forts, in Hudson's Bay, being in reality factories, erected at the mouths of the principal rivers; the buildings are necessarily strong, as well to guard against the climate as against other dangers, and are furnished with artillery to command respect from the different nations of the savages, who come from the remotest parts to dispose of their furs and peltry; but they had not a single soldier in all these forts; and the whole number of storekeepers, clerks, and servants of every denomination, which the Company maintain at so many stations, does not exceed 120 persons. The enemy, therefore, landed without opposition, and destroyed the settlements, forts, merchandize, &c. to the amount of about 500,000*l.* sterling. Having committed this commercial mischief, the French commanders, in the beginning of September, set sail for Europe. Some successes on the Musquito Shore, were all that Great Britain had to counterbalance this loss in the northern extremity of America. The Spaniards had taken possession of some places in the Bay of Honduras and on the Musquito shore, and had made repeated attempts upon the English logwood cutters and settlers there: but the baymen, assisted by the negroes, retook some of them with great valour. A little army was formed, in conjunction with the Indians in those parts, whose enmity to the Spaniards has been hereditary ever since the discovery of America, commanded by Colonel Despard, who attacked and carried the posts on the Black River, where they made about 800 of the Spanish troops prisoners of war.

In the beginning of May, the Bahama Islands were invested by Don Juan Manuel de Cagigal, Governor of the Havannah, with three frigates and sixty sail of transports, on board of which were 2,500 troops: as these islands were incapable of making any material defence, they were surrendered by capitulation on the 8th of that month.

The siege of Gibraltar still continued to be carried on with unabated vigour. It had now lasted three years, and all Europe was in suspense as to the manner in which it would be concluded.

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1782 cluded. The defence it had made, and continued to make, excited universal admiration, and began to lessen the sanguine expectations which the besiegers had entertained of their success against it. At length, however, a project was proposed by the Chevalier d'Arcon, a French engineer of distinction, which gave some promise of reducing this important fortress. The plan of this officer was, to form floating batteries of such a construction, as might neither be liable to be sunk or set on fire; and though they did not finally succeed, were admirably adapted to their destructive purposes. They were ten in number, and made out of the hulks of large vessels of 1,400 to 1,600 tons burthen, cut down for that purpose; their guns, which amounted to 212, were brass 26 pounders, and entirely new. They were to be seconded by a great number of large boats mounted with guns and mortars of heavy metal, besides a large fleet of frigates and ships of force,—with some hundreds of small craft, which were to accompany them with troops, for the instant execution of whatever might occur as necessary to be performed.

To the army already encamped before the place, a body of 12,000 choice troops from France was now added. The corps of engineers was the best that France and Spain could furnish;—Princes of the blood of France, and persons of the first families and most distinguished name in both kingdoms, appeared as volunteers to aid the stupendous attack that was now preparing.

The 13th of September was the day destined to decide the fate of Gibraltar. Early in the morning the floating batteries came forward, and about ten were anchored in a line at about 1,000 yards from the shore. As soon as they were properly arranged they began an heavy cannonade, and were seconded by all the cannon and mortars in the enemies lines and approaches. At the same instant the garrison opened all its batteries, both with hot and cold shot from the guns, and shells from the howitzers and mortars. This terrible fire continued, without intermission on either side, till noon, when the besieged began to perceive their superiority. About two o'clock in the afternoon, the principal of the floating batteries appeared to be on fire, and before that time on the succeeding morning the whole of them were in flames, and soon consumed.

The loss sustained by the enemy, though industriously concealed, must have been very great, while the detriment received by the garrison, in these various attempts of the enemy, was very inconsiderable indeed. It was now evident, that the fortress of Gibraltar was impregnable when defended by British soldiers. General Elliot, by his superior conduct, added another leaf to the wreath of British glory.

Still, however, another difficulty remained to be overcome, before Gibraltar could be considered as in a state of security. Notwithstanding the failure of their late attempt, the enemy were not without hope, that, from the want of ammunition and provisions, the garrison would at length be compelled to surrender. But they were destined to meet with nothing but disappointment in the siege of this fortress: for such diligence was exerted at home, that Lord Howe was enabled to set sail from Portsmouth about the middle of September, with 34 ships of the line, &c. for the relief of Gibraltar. This grand object he successfully effected on the 28th of October, in the very teeth of the combined fleets, which amounted to 46 line of battle ships. On the 20th, a partial action took place at the Straits mouth between the two fleets,—when, the enemy avoiding the opportunity they had of coming to a general engagement, and the British Admiral having succeeded in throwing the necessary succours into Gibraltar, which was the grand object of his enterprize, returned to England, and received, as he well deserved, the thanks of both Houses of Parliament for the important service of that expedition.

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The following treaty of amity and commerce was concluded in the beginning of October, in this year, between the courts of Petersburg and Copenhagen.

“ Article I. There shall subsist between her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias, her heirs and successors to the throne, of the one part, and his Majesty the King of Denmark, his heirs and successors to the throne, of the other part, as also between their states, kingdoms, provinces, cities, and subjects, to perpetuity, a lasting peace, familiarity and good understanding; and in virtue of this concord, as well the said two powers as their subjects, without exception, shall afford mutually, on all occasions, and particularly that which concerns commerce and navigation, all the aid and assistance possible in displaying for this purpose all the zeal of friends and good neighbours, and without ever hazarding any thing that can turn to the prejudice or detriment of either of the parties.

“ II. Perfect liberty of conscience shall be granted to the subjects of the two nations in their respective states, and, consequently, they shall have free liberty to exercise the duties of their religion in their own houses, in buildings, or churches, destined or permitted for that purpose by government, without being troubled or molested on any account whatever.

“ III. The subjects of Russia in Denmark, or the subjects of Denmark in Russia, shall be constantly regarded and treated as the most favoured nations: and the two high contracting parties engage, between them, to grant to their respective subjects all the accommodation and assistance, and all the commercial advantages which can naturally arise from such a preference, in order, as much as possible, to extend and raise to a flourishing state the commerce of the subjects of Russia in Denmark, and of the subjects of Denmark in Russia; provided, nevertheless, that in all cases where the present treaty shall not stipulate some exemption or privilege in favour of the two nations, or of some one in particular, the Russian or Danish merchants shall submit in their trade or traffic to the tariff or custom book, ordinances, and laws of the country in which they shall be settled.

“ IV. It shall be permitted to the subjects of each of the allied powers in the states of the other, to navigate, sell, and transport freely by water and by land, in all the ports, cities, and roads of the two countries, all merchandize of which the coming in and going out is not prohibited, on payment, however, of the customs and prescribed rights in each place, and upon conforming thereto in the same manner as the vessels and carriages laden with the like transports of merchandizes do to the laws established in the place where such commerce shall be carried on. Her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias excepts only from the aforesaid permission, her ports of the Black Sea, of the Caspian Sea, and her other possessions in Asia; and his Danish Majesty excepts only his possessions in America, and the other establishments which he possesses out of Europe.

“ V. The commercial subjects of the two high contracting parties shall pay for their merchandizes the customs or duties fixed in the respective states by the custom-rate books, according to the present or future regulations. And her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias is satisfied, that she gives his Danish Majesty a most convincing proof of the esteem in which she holds his Majesty, in the favour and preference which she professes in future to give to the Danish subjects in her dominions, in granting them permission to discharge the duties or customs in the current money of the country, without being subject, as heretofore, to pay the same in rixdollars, valuing the rixdollar at 124 copecks current money of Russia; except, nevertheless, the ports of Livonia, Estonia, and Finland, which have particular customs and privileges to which the present treaty is not to extend.

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“ VI. As a reciprocal return for the advantages granted by the preceding article in favour of the commercial subjects of Denmark, his Danish Majesty, wishing to benefit the trade of the subjects of Russia in his states, agrees, by the present treaty, to grant them the following advantages :—

“ 1. That the Russian leaf tobacco, known in Europe under the name of *Ukraine tobacco*, through the passage of the Sound, shall pay, in future, only eight stivers for ten pounds of the weights of Russia.

“ 2. That such merchandizes as are valued or estimated by the rate of the last, or by weight and measure, shall be examined and taxed in passing the Sound, according to the lasts, measures, and weights actually used in the places and ports of the Russian empire from whence such merchandizes shall be cleared out.

“ 3. That the pieces of Riga timber, known under the name of *Surren Balden*, which are five, six, seven, eight, and nine fathoms in length, shall pay for their passage through the Sound, for twenty pieces, two and a half reichs-orts (about 2s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. sterling); and those of the length of from four to one fathom, and less, shall be reduced to the duty and to the measure of the pieces of from nine to five fathoms in length, and shall pay the customs of the Sound according to that reduction made on the measure of the great pieces.

“ 4. That the *Vedasse*, or *Veidasse*, shall be paid at the rate of a dozen stivers the last, which shall contain twelve tons of the size of those now in use at Riga.

“ VII. And, moreover, his Danish Majesty, accustomed to favour the interests of the empire of Russia, as those of an ancient friend and ally of his crown, will permit the subjects of Russia to enjoy, throughout the Sound, an equal treatment with the nations the most favoured of Denmark, in requiring only *one* per cent. for all merchandizes of which mention is not made in the tariff or custom-book.

“ VIII. The vessels and merchandizes which belong to the subjects of Russia shall not be searched in passing the Sound; but with respect to the tolls or customs to be paid for such ships and merchandizes, credit shall be given to the certificates and passports, in due form, with which such vessels shall be furnished from the magistrate or custom-house of the place from whence they shall have cleared out, without requiring any further explanation respecting the merchandize which composes the cargoes of such vessels, and giving full faith and credit to the contents of such letters and passports with respect to weight, measure, quality, and packages; provided, nevertheless, that if any fraud shall appear committed on this account, measures shall be taken, on the first requisition, for the purpose of remedying the same, and preventing the like in future.

“ IX. The custom-house of the Sound, in acquitting the payment of duties, shall, at every time, be obliged to give the specific detail of duties received on each piece of merchandize, in order that it may be verified and clearly ascertained if any thing shall have been exacted too much; and the said custom-house shall not be permitted to depart from this usage, unless the captains of vessels, to accelerate their voyage, should content themselves with an acquittal in the gross of duties paid for the whole of their cargoes.

“ X. The Russian trading ships, after having paid the tolls or duties of the Sound, whether upon entering the Baltic sea, or that having gone out thereof, should they be obliged by tempest, contrary winds, or otherwise, to return to the Sound, shall not be any longer liable to pay the said duties a second time.

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“ XI. An exemption of port duties, and generally of all others, shall be granted to Russian vessels which shall pass before the fort of Glükstat, and other places which belong to Denmark on the Elbe, so that these vessels, in going and coming, shall not be searched, detained, or disturbed, unless that in time of war there should be strong and specific reasons to suspect them of carrying contraband articles to the enemy.

“ XII. As often as the subjects of Russia or Denmark, by tempests, or to avoid the pursuit of some pirate, or other unavoidable accident, shall be obliged to take refuge in the ports of the respective states, they shall refit and provide themselves with all things necessary, and put to sea in free liberty, without submitting to the least search, or the payment of any port fees, or other duties whatsoever; on condition, however, that during their stay they shall take nothing out of their vessels, nor expose any merchandize to sale, and that they shall conform, in all things, to the laws, statutes, and customs of the place or port into which they shall so enter.

“ XIII. No ship, whether a merchant-man or ship of war, belonging to the subjects of one of the allied powers, nor any person belonging thereto, shall be liable to be stopped, nor shall the merchandizes be seized in the ports of the other. But this is, nevertheless, not to extend to seizures or legal arrests on account of personal debts contracted in that country by the proprietors of any such vessels or cargoes; in which cases, the proceedings shall be according to the laws and judicial forms of the country; and in case of personal delinquency, it is clearly understood, that every one shall be subject to the punishments established by the laws of the country where the ship or vessel shall then be.

“ XIV. No ship or transport whatever belonging to the one power, shall be forced by the other to serve in war against their will.

“ XV. If the vessels of the subjects of the two contracting powers should run aground, or be wrecked on the coasts of either the one or the other, their respective subjects shall be entitled, as well for themselves as for their vessels and effects, to all possible succour and assistance, the same as the inhabitants of the country themselves; paying, nevertheless, the same charges and customs to which the proper subjects of the state are in like cases subject, on the coasts where they shall be so aground or wrecked.

“ XVI. When one of the two contracting powers shall be at war with the other states, the communication and free commerce of the subjects of the other with such states, shall not be interrupted; and it is to the contrary, in this case, that the two crowns, intimately convinced of the wisdom of principles, which, for the general good of all commercial people, have been fixed and decreed in the *Maritime Convention* between them at Copenhagen, the 29th of June and July, 1780, declare their determination to make them the unalterable rule of their conduct, and to have recourse to them on every occasion, as to laws and stipulations which merit a distinguished rank in the code of humanity.

“ XVII. In consequence whereof they here immediately apply to themselves the four important axioms, which, in case of war, have been established in favour of the rights of all neutral powers in general, viz.

“ 1. That all vessels shall have liberty to navigate freely from one port to another, and on the coasts of nations at war.

“ 2. That the property of all the subjects to the said powers shall, in time of war, be free in all neutral vessels, excepting goods which are contraband.

“ 3. That

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“ 3. That in order to determine that which characterizes a blocked port, none shall be so denominated, but where the approach of the assailing power is so near, and so situated, that there must be evident danger in entering it.

“ 4. That neutral vessels shall not be stopped but upon just causes, founded on the most clear facts; that they shall have judgment without delay; that the proceedings shall be always uniform, expeditious, and legal; and that at all times, besides the recompence which shall be made to those who shall have suffered loss without having been in fault, a complete satisfaction shall be made for the insult given to the respective flags.

“ XVIII. The trading vessels of the respective subjects, navigating alone, and which shall be met with either coasting, or in the open sea, by the ships of war, or other armed vessels of either of the two contracting powers engaged in a war with any other powers, shall submit to be searched; but, at the same time that the said merchant-ships shall be prohibited from throwing any papers overboard, the ships of war or privateers aforesaid, shall, on their part, remain constantly beyond the distance of gun-shot from such merchant-ships; and entirely to prevent all disorder and violence, it is agreed, that such ships of war or other armed vessels, shall never send off more than two or three men in their chaloupes, to go on board them, to examine their passports and papers which contain a state of the property and commissions of the vessels; but supposing, nevertheless, that such merchant vessels are found escorted by one or more ships of war, the simple declaration of the officer commanding the escort, that the vessels carry nothing contraband, shall be looked upon as fully sufficient, and no farther search shall take place.

“ XIX. As soon as it has been made to appear, by the documents produced, or by the verbal assurance of the officer commanding the escort, that the merchant-ships so met at sea are not laden with contraband, they shall be free to continue their route, without any further hinderance; and those ships of war or privateers, on one part or the other, who shall, notwithstanding, molest or damage, in any manner whatever, the ships in question, shall be obliged to answer for it in their persons and property, besides the reparation due for the insult given to the flag.

“ XX. That if, on the contrary, a vessel, on being searched, shall be detected with contraband goods on board, the chests, trunks, bales, and casks which shall be so found in the same vessel, shall not be broken, nor the least part of the merchandizes disturbed; but the captor shall have a right to bring the said vessel into port, where, after commencing his legal process before the judge of the admiralty, according to the established rules and laws, and after that definitive sentence shall have been passed, the prohibited goods or merchandize, or such as shall be pronounced to be contraband, shall be confiscated, whilst the other effects and merchandizes which were found with them in the same ship, shall be restored, without either the vessel or effects being liable to be detained under pretence of costs, damage, or penalties.

“ During the continuance of the process, the captain, after having delivered the goods taken for contraband, shall not be obliged, against his will, to wait for the conclusion of the process, but may put to sea with the vessel and the rest of his cargo, whenever he shall think proper:— And in case that a vessel of one of the two powers, being at peace, shall be seized, in open sea, by a man of war or privateer of the other power, being at war, and shall be laden with merchandize, acknowledged for contraband, the master of such merchant vessel shall be at liberty, if he thinks proper, to abandon immediately such contraband merchandize to his captor, who shall be obliged to content himself with such *voluntary abandonment*, without retaining, molesting,

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1782 lesting, or disturbing, in any manner, the ship or ship's company, who shall be immediately permitted to pursue their course.

“ XXI. The following articles *only* are those which shall be understood to come under the denomination of contraband, viz. cannons, mortars, fire-arms, pistols, bombs, grenades, fuses, flints, matches, gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, cuirasses, pikes, swords, belts, cartridges, saddles and bridles; excepting, at all times, the quantity which is necessary for the defence of the ship and ship's company; and all other articles whatsoever, which are not here named, shall not be reputed ammunitions of war, or naval stores, nor be liable to confiscation, and, consequently, shall pass freely, without being subject to the least molestation.

“ XXII. Although, by the twenty-first article of this treaty, all articles of contraband are found clearly specified, and determined in such a manner, that all merchandize not therein expressly named, ought to be reputed free and secure from seizure, nevertheless, her Imperial and his Danish Majesty, knowing the difficulties which have arisen during the present maritime war, touching the liberty which the neutral nations ought to enjoy in buying vessels belonging to the belligerent powers, or to their subjects, have judged proper, in order to remove all doubt which might possibly arise on this matter, to stipulate, that in case of a war between one of them with any other power whatsoever, the subjects of the other contracting party which shall remain in peace, shall be at liberty to purchase of the subjects, or cause to be constructed in ports of the power at war with the other contracting party, as many vessels as they shall think proper, without being subject to any difficulty on the part of such power, or of its privateers; provided, nevertheless, that such vessels be provided with all necessary documents to ascertain the property, and its legal acquisition, to be in the subjects of the neutral power.

“ XXIII. It is also agreed between them, that the subjects of any power at war with either of them, who shall be found in their service, and those who shall be naturalized, or shall have acquired the right of denization, even during the war, shall not be looked upon or treated on any other footing than the subjects born in their respective states.

“ XXIV. As each of the two contracting powers may, for the advantage of the commerce of their subjects, appoint consuls in the states of their respective dominions reciprocally, it is mutually agreed between them, that the respective subjects shall, in all their processes among them, and other lawsuits, by the proper consent and agreement of the parties, have recourse to the judgment of their respective consuls; and that not only the decisions of their said consuls shall be perfectly valid and legal, but in order to enforce the execution of their determinations, they shall also, in cases of necessity, call in the power and assistance of the tribunals of the place. But whenever the parties in dispute will not have recourse to the authority of their own consuls, they shall make application to the ordinary tribunals of the country where they shall then be; which tribunals shall be attentive to render them the most expeditious and most strict justice, according to the laws and regulations established by those tribunals; and, in either case, the respective subjects may chuse, to plead or conduct their cause, such counsellors, attornies, or notaries, as they shall think proper, provided they be duly recognized as such by the government, or the courts established for that purpose.

“ XXV. The aforesaid consuls, in quality of officers of a friendly and allied power, shall have power likewise, with the consent of the two high contracting parties, to settle the disputes, and finally decide between merchants of their respective nations; but in all cases which concern their own particular affairs, they shall not be the less subordinate themselves to the laws and tribunals of the country where they shall be established.

“ XXVI. When

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“ XXVI. When the Russian and Danish merchants shall enter in the custom-house their contracts or bargains for sale or purchase of merchandizes by their clerks, supercargoes, or other agents employed by them, the custom-house of Russia, in which those contracts shall be registered, shall examine carefully if those who contract for the account of their principals, are furnished by them with full powers, made in good and sufficient form; in which case, the said principals shall be responsible for the same as if they had contracted in person. But if the said supercargoes or agents, employed by the aforesaid merchants, are not provided with orders or sufficient powers, they ought not to be credited on their word: and although the custom-houses may be charged with the care of this object, the parties themselves who contract shall not be the less bound to take care, that the grants, bargains, or contracts, that may be so made, shall not exceed the powers which have been entrusted to them by their principals, as the latter are only bound to answer for the object and value for which the powers were given by them. The custom-houses of Denmark shall observe the same conduct with respect to the contracts, purchases, and sales, between the Russian and Danish merchants in the states of his Danish Majesty.

“ XXVII. All possible support shall be given to the respective subjects, against those amongst themselves who shall not fulfil the engagements of contracts made according to the forms prescribed, and registered at the custom-house; and, for this purpose, government, on both sides, shall employ, in case of necessity, all authority and assistance requisite to compel the appearance of the parties before the proper tribunals of the place where such contracts shall have been made and registered, and also to oblige the contractors to the specific performance thereof.

“ XXVIII. The Danish merchants established in Russia shall pay for the merchandizes which they shall buy, in the same current money of Russia that they shall have received for their merchandizes sold, unless that in their contracts or agreements made between the buyer and seller, it may have been stipulated to the contrary. The Russian merchants established in the states of Denmark shall enjoy reciprocally the same advantage.

“ XXIX. The necessary mutual precautions shall be taken, that the sorting the merchandizes may be trusted to persons of known intelligence and probity, to the end that the respective subjects may, by that means, be guarded against an improper choice of merchandizes and fraudulent packages; and whenever there shall be sufficient proofs of trespass, negligence, or of bad faith in the exercise of the duty of their offices, they shall be responsible, and obliged to make good all losses incurred by their fault.

“ XXX. The respective subjects shall have full liberty, at the respective places of residence, to keep books of trade or commerce, in whatever language they think proper, without any prescription or restraint on that account; and it shall not be required of them to produce their books of accounts or of commerce, unless to justify themselves in case of bankruptcy or process at law; but in this last case, they shall not be obliged to present or shew more than the articles necessary to the éclaircissement of the affair in question.

“ XXXI. If it should happen, that a subject of Russia, in the states of Denmark, or a subject of Denmark, in the states of Russia, should become a bankrupt, without having acquired the right of denizen or citizen, the creditors, under authority of the magistrates of each place, shall name trustees, to whom all the effects, books, and papers of him who shall have become a bankrupt shall be entrusted; and then the creditors who shall have claims to two-thirds of the stock, if they vote in favour of any arrangement whatever concerning the distri-

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bution of this stock, their suffrages shall have sufficient power over the other creditors, who shall be obliged to submit to their arrangement: but with respect to the subjects of the respective states who shall be naturalized, or shall have acquired the right of citizen in the states of the other contracting party, they shall submit, in case of bankruptcy, (as in all other affairs) to the laws, ordinances, and statutes of the country where they shall be naturalized.

“ XXXII. The Danish merchants established in Russia, shall be permitted to build, to buy, sell, and hire houses in all the cities of this empire, (Russia) which have not rights and privileges contrary to these acquisitions; and it is specifically agreed, that at St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Archangel, the houses possessed and inhabited by the Danish merchants, shall be exempt from lodgement or the quartering of troops or soldiers, so long as the houses belong to, or are actually occupied by themselves; but the houses which they shall let, or take to hire, shall not be so exempted. In all the other cities of the empire of Russia, the houses bought or built by Danish merchants, who shall establish themselves there, shall not enjoy the exemptions granted, only in the three cities above specified. If, nevertheless, it shall be judged proper, in the course of time, to make a general order to take a pecuniary commutation for the provision of quarters, the Danish merchants shall be subject to it as well as others.

“ His Danish Majesty engages reciprocally, that the Russian merchants established in his states, shall enjoy the same exemptions and privileges which are granted by this present article to the Danish merchants established in Russia, and on the same conditions as above specified.

“ XXXIII. Those of the respective subjects who shall be inclined to quit the provinces, cities, and states of either of the contracting powers, shall not experience any hinderance on the part of government; but they shall have granted them, with the accustomed precautions of each place, the necessary passports, entitling them to go and take away freely all property which they may have brought or acquired there, after having first paid their debts, and the dues and duties appointed by the laws, ordinances, and statutes of the respective states.

“ XXXIV. Although the right of escheat does not exist in the states of the two contracting powers, it is, nevertheless, agreed between them, to prevent all doubts which may arise thereupon, that the effects, moveable or immoveable, left by the death of any of the respective subjects in the states of the other power, shall descend freely, without any obstacle whatever, to the right heirs of an intestate, or legatees by the will of the deceased, who shall, in consequence thereof, take immediate possession of the estate, either by themselves or by letter of attorney, as well as the testamentary executors, if any should have been named by the deceased; and the said heirs shall afterwards dispose of the estate which shall have been left them as they think proper, after having paid the different dues, duties, and fees established by the laws of the state where the said succession shall have been left. And in case that the heirs should be absent, or should be minors, incapable of claiming their rights, then an inventory shall be taken of all the succession by a notary public, in presence of a judge, or of the tribunals of the place, accompanied by the consul of the nation of the deceased, if there be one in the same place, and of two other persons worthy of trust, and afterwards put into some public establishment or fund, or into the hands of two or three merchants, who shall be named for that purpose by the said consul; or if he should neglect to nominate two such persons, then into the hands of persons appointed by public authority for that purpose, to the end, that the estate or effects may be by them held and preserved for the legitimate heirs and true proprietors. And if there should arise any dispute relative to such estate between different claimants, then the judges of the

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1782 the place where the effects of the deceased are found, shall decide the process by definitive sentence, according to the laws of the country.

“ XXXV. If peace should be broken between the two contracting parties, (which, God forbid!) the persons of the respective subjects shall not be stopped, nor their vessels nor effects confiscated; but one year, at least, shall be granted them to sell, part with, or remove their effects, with a view to repair to whatever place they shall think proper, after having, nevertheless, paid all the debts which may be legally demanded of them: this likewise shall be understood of those of the respective subjects who shall serve by sea or by land, and both the one and the other shall be permitted, before or at the time of their departure, to make to whomsoever they shall think proper, or to dispose agreeable to their will and convenience, of such of their effects as they shall not have been already able to dispose of; so that those who owe them money, as well as those to whom they owe money shall be equally obliged to pay their debts, the same as if no such rupture had happened.

“ XXXVI. The present treaty shall be in force for the term of twelve years, and all which is found therein decreed, is to be invariably observed during this interval, and executed in its full tenor and meaning; provided, that before the expiration of the term of the said treaty, it should depend on the good pleasure of the two high contracting parties to agree to its prolongation.

“ XXXVII. The two high contracting powers engage to ratify the present treaty of commerce, and the ratification of it shall be exchanged, in good and due form, in the space of six weeks from the day of the date of signing, or sooner, if possible. In faith of which, we, the under-signed, in virtue of our powers plenipotentiary, have thereunto set our names, and affixed the seal of our arms.

“ Done at St. Petersburg, the $\frac{8}{19}$ th of October, 1782.

“ (L. S.) PETER CHRISTIAN DE SCHUMACHER.

“ (L. S.) JEAN COUNT DE OSTERMAN.

“ (L. S.) ALEXANDER COUNT DE WORONTZOW.

“ (L. S.) ALEXANDER DE BEZBORODKO.

“ (L. S.) PETER DE BACOUNIN.”

✍ This treaty of amity and commerce was ratified by their Imperial and Royal Majesties, and the ratifications were exchanged according to the common custom, by the respective plenipotentiaries.

At this time was also concluded the following treaty at the Hague, between the republic of Holland and the United States of America.—Though it is founded on the basis of the secret treaty of 1778, yet as it appears in a new shape, and in its present form and substance is admitted as a part of the commercial law of Europe, we shall give it at large.

“ Their High Mightinesses the States-General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, desiring to ascertain, in a permanent and equitable manner, the rules to be observed relative to the commerce and correspondence which they intend to establish between their respective states, countries, and inhabitants, have judged, that the said end cannot be better obtained than by establishing the most perfect equality and reciprocity for the basis of their agreement, and by avoiding all those burthensome preferences which are usually the sources of debate, embarrassment, and discontent; by leaving also each party at liberty to make, respecting commerce and navigation, such ulterior regulations as it shall find most convenient to itself, and by founding the advantages of commerce solely upon reciprocal utility,

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1782 and the just rules of free intercourse, reserving withal, to each party, the liberty of admitting, at its pleasure, other nations to a participation of the same advantages.

“ On these principles, their High Mightinesses have named for their plenipotentiaries, Messieurs their deputies for foreign affairs; and the said United States of America, on their part, have furnished with full powers Mr. John Adams, late commissioner of the United States of America at the Court of Versailles, &c. who have agreed and concluded as follows:

“ Article I. There shall be a firm, inviolable, and universal peace, and sincere friendship, between their High Mightinesses the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America; and between the subjects and inhabitants of the said parties, and between the countries, islands, cities, and places, situated under the jurisdiction of the said United Netherlands, and the said United States of America, their subjects and inhabitants, of every degree, without exception of persons or places.

“ II. The subjects of the said States General of the United Netherlands shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities, or places of the United States of America, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or imposts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than those which the nations the most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions in trade, navigation, and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another in the said states, or in going from any of those ports to any foreign port of the world, or from any foreign port of the world to any of those ports.

“ III. The subjects and inhabitants of the said United States of America, shall pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities, or places of the said United Netherlands, or any of them, no other nor greater duties or imposts, of whatever nature or denomination they may be, than those which the nations the most favoured are or shall be obliged to pay, and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities, and exemptions in trade, navigation, and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another in the said states, or from any one towards any one of these ports, from or to any foreign port of the world; and the United States of America, with their subjects and inhabitants, shall leave to those of their High Mightinesses the peaceable enjoyment of their rights in the countries, islands, and seas in the East and West Indies, without any hinderance or molestation.

“ IV. There shall be an entire and perfect liberty of conscience allowed to the subjects and inhabitants of each party, and to their families, and no one shall be molested in regard to his worship, provided he submits as to the public demonstration of it, to the laws of the country; there shall be given, moreover, liberty, when any subjects or inhabitants of either party shall die in the territory of the other, to bury them in the usual burying places, or in decent or convenient grounds to be appointed for that purpose, as occasion shall require; and the dead bodies of those who are buried shall not, in any wise, be molested. And the two contracting parties shall provide each one in his jurisdiction, that their respective subjects and inhabitants may henceforward obtain the requisite certificates in cases of deaths in which they shall be interested.

“ V. Their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, shall endeavour, by all the means in their power, to defend and protect all vessels and other effects belonging to their subjects and inhabitants respectively, or to any of them in their ports, roads, havens, internal seas, passes, rivers, and as far as their jurisdiction

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1782 jurisdiction extends at sea, and to recover and cause to be restored to the true proprietors, their agents, or attornies, all such vessels and effects which shall be taken under their jurisdictions; and their vessels of war and convoys, in cases when they may have a common enemy, shall take under their protection all the vessels belonging to the subjects and inhabitants of either party, which shall not be laden with contraband goods, according to the description which shall be made of them hereafter, for places with which one of the parties is in peace and the other at war, not destined for any place blocked, and which shall hold the same course or follow the same route: and they shall defend such vessels as long as they shall hold the same course or follow the same route against all attacks, force, and violence of the common enemy, in the same manner as they ought to protect and defend the vessels belonging to their own respective subjects.

“ VI. The subjects of the contracting parties may, on one side and on the other, in the respective countries and states, dispose of their effects by testament, donation, or otherwise; and their heirs, subjects of one of the parties, and residing in the country of the other or elsewhere, shall receive such successions, even *ab intestato*, whether to person or by their attorney or substitute, even although they shall not have obtained letters of naturalization, without having the effect of such commission contested under pretext of any rights or prerogatives of any province, city, or private person; and if the heirs, to whom such succession may have fallen, shall be minors, the tutors or curators established by the judge domienary of the said minors, may govern, direct, administer, sell, and alterate the effects fallen to the said minors by inheritance, and in general, in relation to the said successions and effects, use all the rights and fulfil all the functions which belong to the disposition of the laws, to guardians, tutors, and curators: provided, nevertheless, that this disposition cannot take place but in cases where the testator shall not have named guardians, tutors, curators, by testament, codicil, or other legal instrument.

“ VII. It shall be lawful and free for the subjects of each party to employ such advocates, attornies, notaries, solicitors, or factors, as they shall judge proper.

“ VIII. Merchants, masters, and owners of ships, mariners, men of all kinds, ships, and vessels, and all merchandizes, and goods in general, and effects of one of the confederates, or of the subjects thereof, shall not be seized or detained in any of the countries, lands, islands, cities, places, ports, shores, or denominations whatsoever of the other confederate for any military expedition, public or private use of any one, by arrests, violence, or any colour hereof; much less shall it be permitted to the subjects of either party to take or extort, by force, any thing from the subjects of the other party without the consent of the owner; which, however, is not to be understood of seizures, descensions, and arrests, which shall be made by the command and authority of justice, and by the ordinary methods on account of debts or crimes, in respect whereof, the proceedings must be, by way of law, according to the forms of justice.

“ IX. It is farther agreed and concluded, that it shall be wholly free for all merchants, commanders of ships, and other subjects and inhabitants of the contracting parties, in every place subjected to the jurisdiction of the two powers respectively, to manage themselves their own business: and, moreover, as to the use of interpreters or brokers, as also in relation to the loading or unloading of their vessels, and every thing which has relation thereto, they shall be, on one side and on the other, considered and treated upon the footing of natural subjects, or, at least, upon an equality with the most favoured nation.

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“ X. The merchant ships of either of the parties, coming from the port of an enemy, or from their own or a neutral port, may navigate freely towards any port of an enemy of the other ally: they shall be, nevertheless, held, whenever it shall be required, to exhibit, as well upon the high seas as in the ports, their sea letters and other documents described in the 25th article, stating expressly, that their effects are not of the number of those which are prohibited as contraband: and not having any contraband goods for an enemy's port, they may freely, and without hinderance, pursue their voyage towards the port of an enemy. Nevertheless, it shall not be required to examine the papers of vessels convoyed by vessels of war, but credence shall be given to the word of the officer who shall conduct the convoy.

“ XI. If, by exhibiting the sea letters and other documents described more particularly in the 25th article of this treaty, the other party shall discover there are any of those sorts of goods which are declared prohibited and contraband, and that they are consigned for a port under the obedience of his enemy, it shall not be lawful to break up the hatches of such ship, nor to open any chest, coffer, packs, casks, or other vessels found therein, or to remove the smallest parcel of her goods, whether the said vessel belongs to the subjects of their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, or to the subjects or inhabitants of the said United States of America, unless the lading be brought on shore in presence of the officers of the court of Admiralty, and an inventory thereof made, but there shall be no allowance to sell, exchange, or alienate the same until after that due and lawful process shall have been had against such prohibited goods of contraband, and the Court of Admiralty, by a sentence pronounced, shall have confiscated the same, saving always as well the ship itself as any other goods found therein, which are to be esteemed free, and may not be detained on pretence of their being infected by the prohibited goods, much less shall they be confiscated as lawful prizes: but, on the contrary, when by the visitation at land it shall be found that there are no contraband goods in the vessel, and it shall not appear by the papers, that he who has taken and carried in the vessel has been able to discover any there, he ought to be condemned in all the charges, damages, and interests of them, which he shall have caused both to the owners of vessels and to the owners and freighters of cargoes with which they shall be loaded, by his temerity in taking and carrying them in, declaring most expressly; the free vessels shall assure the liberty of the effects with which they shall be loaded, and that this liberty shall extend itself equally to the persons who shall be found in a free vessel, who may not be taken out of her, unless they are military men actually in the service of an enemy.

“ XII. On the contrary, it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the subjects and inhabitants of either party on any ship belonging to the enemies of the other, or to their subjects, although it be not comprehended under the sort of prohibited goods, the whole may be confiscated in the same manner as if it belonged to the enemy; except, nevertheless, such effects and merchandizes as were put on board such vessel before the declaration of war, or within six months after it, which effects shall not be, in any manner, subject to confiscation, but shall be faithfully, and without delay, restored in nature to the owners who shall claim them, or cause them to be claimed, before the confiscation and sale, as also their proceeds, if the claim could not be made but in the space of eight months after the sale, which ought to be public: provided, nevertheless, that if the said merchandizes are contraband, it shall, by no means, be lawful to transport them afterwards to any port belonging to enemies.

“ XIII. And that more effectual care may be taken for the security of subjects and people of either party, that they do not suffer any molestation from the vessels of war or privateers of the

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1782 the other party, it shall be forbidden to all the commanders of vessels of war and other armed vessels of the said States General of the United Netherlands, and the said United States of America, as well as to all their officers, subjects and people, to give any offence, or do any damage to those of the other party: and if they act to the contrary, they shall be, upon the first complaint which shall be made of it, being found guilty after a just examination, punished by their proper judges, and, moreover, obliged to make satisfaction for all damages and interests thereof by reparation, under pain and obligation of their persons and goods.

“ XIV. For further determining of what has been said, all captains of privateers, or fitters out of vessels armed for war, under commission and on account of private persons, shall be held before their departure, to give sufficient caution before competent judges, either to be entirely responsible for the malversations which they may commit in their cruizes or voyages, as well as for the contraventions of their captains and officers, against the present treaty, and against the ordinances and edicts which shall be published in consequence of, and conformably to it, under pain of forfeiture and nullity of the said commission.

“ XV. All vessels and merchandizes of whatsoever nature, which shall be rescued out of the hands of any pirates or robbers, navigating the high seas, without requisite commissions, shall be brought into some port of one of the two States, and deposited in the hands of the officers of that port, in order to be restored entire to the true proprietor, as soon as due and sufficient proofs shall be made concerning the property thereof.

“ XVI. If any ships or vessels belonging to either of the parties, their subjects or people, shall, within the coasts or dominions of the other, stick upon the sands or be wrecked, or suffer any other sea damage, all friendly assistance and relief shall be given to the persons shipwrecked, or such as shall be in danger thereof; and the vessels, effects and merchandizes, or the part of them, which shall have been saved, or the proceeds of them, if being perishable they shall have been sold, being claimed within a year and a day, by the masters or owners, or their agents or attornies, shall be restored, paying only the reasonable charges, and that which must be paid, in the same case, for the salvage, by the proper subjects of the country; there shall also be delivered them safe conducts or passports, for their free and safe passage from thence, and to return each one to his own country.

“ XVII. In case the subjects or people of either party, with their shipping, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, be forced, through stress of weather, pursuit of pirates or enemies, or any other urgent necessity for seeking of shelter and harbour, to retreat and enter into any of the rivers, creeks, bays, ports, roads or shores, belonging to the other party, they shall be received with all humanity and kindness, and enjoy all friendly protection and help, and they shall be permitted to refresh and provide themselves at reasonable rates, with victuals and all things needful for the sustenance of their persons, or reparation of their ships; and they shall no ways be detained or hindered from returning out of the said ports or roads, but may remove and depart when and whither they please, without any let or hinderance.

“ XVIII. For the better promoting of commerce on both sides, it is agreed, that if a war should break out between their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands and the United States of America, there shall always be granted to the subjects on each side, the term of nine months, after the date of the rupture, or the proclamation of war; to the end that they may retire with their effects, and transport them where they please; which it shall be lawful for them to do, as well as to sell or transport their effects and goods in all freedom, and without hinderance, and without being able to proceed during the said term of
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1782 nine months, to any arrest of their effects, much less of their persons; on the contrary, there shall be given them, for their vessels and their effects which they would carry away, passports and life conducts, for the nearest ports of their respective countries, and for the time necessary for the voyage, and no prize made at sea shall be adjudged lawful, at least if the declaration of war was not or could not be known in the last port, which the vessel taken has quitted. But for whatever may have been taken from the subjects and inhabitants of either party, and for the offences which may have been given them, in the interval of the said terms, a complete satisfaction shall be given them.

“ XIX. No subject of their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, shall apply for or take any commission or letter of marque for arming any ship or ships, to act as privateers against the said United States of America, or any of them, or the subjects and inhabitants of the said United States or any of them, or against the property of the inhabitants of any of them, from any Prince or State with which the said United States of America may happen to be at war; nor shall any subject or inhabitant of the said United States of America, or any of them, apply for or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any ship or ships to act as privateers against the High and Mighty Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, or against the subjects of their High Mightinesses, or any of them, or against the property of any one of them, from any Prince or State with which their High Mightinesses may be at war: and if any person of either nation shall take such commission or letters of marque he shall be punished as a pirate.

“ XX. If the vessels of the subjects or inhabitants of one of the parties come upon any coast belonging to either of the said allies, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port and not willing to unload their cargoes or break bulk, or take in any cargo, they shall not be obliged to pay neither for the vessels nor the cargoes, any duties of entry in or out, nor to render any account of their cargoes, at least if there is not just cause to presume that they carry to an enemy merchandizes of contraband.

“ XXI. The two contracting parties grant to each other mutually, the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, consuls, vice-consuls, agents, and commissaries of their own appointing, whose functions shall be regulated by particular agreements, whenever either party chuse to make such appointments.

“ XXII. This treaty shall not be understood in any manner to derogate from the ninth, tenth, nineteenth and twenty-fourth articles of the treaty with France, as they were numbered in the same treaty, concluded the 6th of February, 1778, and which make the articles ninth, tenth, seventeenth and twenty-second of the treaty of commerce now subsisting between the United States of America and the crown of France: nor shall it hinder his Catholic Majesty from acceding to that treaty, and enjoying the advantages of the said four articles.

“ XXIII. If at any time the United States of America shall judge necessary to commence negotiations with the King or Emperor of Morocco and Fez, and with the Regencies of Algiers, Tunis, or Tripoli, or with any of them, to obtain passports for the security of their navigation in the Mediterranean sea; their High Mightinesses promise, that upon the requisition which the United States of America shall make of it, they will second such negotiations in the most favourable manner by means of their consuls residing near the said King, Emperor and Regencies.

“ XXIV. The liberty of navigation and commerce shall extend to all sorts of merchandizes, excepting only those which are distinguished under the name of contraband, or merchandizes

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1782 chandizes prohibited; and under this denomination of contraband and merchandizes prohibited shall be comprehended only warlike stores and arms, as mortars, artillery with their artifices and appurtenances, fufils, pistols, bombs, grenades, gunpowder, saltpetre, sulphur, match, bullets and balls, pikes, sabres, lances, halberts, casques, cuirasses, and other sorts of arms; as also soldiers, horses, saddles and furniture for horses. All other effects and merchandizes, not before specified expressly, and even all sorts of naval matters, however proper they may be, for the construction and equipment of vessels of war, or for the manufacture of one or other sort of machines of war, by land or sea, shall not be judged contraband, neither by the letter, nor according to any pretended interpretation whatever, ought they, or can they be comprehended, under the notion of effects prohibited or contraband; so that all effects and merchandizes, which are not expressly before-named, may, without any exception, and in perfect liberty be transported, by the subjects and inhabitants of both allies, from and to places belonging to the enemy, excepting only the places which at that time shall be besieged, blocked or invested, and those places only shall be held for such, which are surrounded nearly by some of the belligerent powers.

“ XXV. To the end that all dissention and quarrel may be avoided and prevented, it has been agreed, that in case that one of the two parties happens to be at war, the vessels belonging to the subjects or inhabitants of the other ally, shall be provided with sea-letters or passports, expressing the name, the property, and the burden of the vessel, as also the name and the place of abode of the master, or commander of the said vessel, to the end that thereby it may appear, that the vessel really and truly belongs to the subjects or inhabitants of some of the parties; which passport shall be drawn and distributed according to the form annexed to this treaty, each time that the vessel shall return, she should have such her passports renewed, or at least they ought not to be of more ancient date than two years, before the vessel has been returned to her own country.

“ It has been also agreed, that such vessels, being loaded, ought to be provided not only with the said passports or sea-letters, but also with a general passport, or with particular passports or manifest, or other public documents which are ordinarily given to vessels outward bound, in the ports from whence the vessels have set sail in the last place, containing a specification of the cargo, of the place from whence the vessel departed, and of that of her destination; or instead of all these, with certificates from the magistrates or governors of cities, places and colonies from whence the vessel came, given in the usual form, to the end that it may be known whether there are any effects prohibited or contraband on board the vessels, and whether they are destined to be carried to an enemy's country or not. And in case any one judges proper, to express in the said documents, the persons to whom the effects on board belong, he may do it freely, without, however, being bound to do it; and the omission of such expression cannot and ought not to cause confiscation.

“ XXVI. If the vessels of the said subjects or inhabitants of either of the parties sailing along the coasts or on the high seas, are met by a vessel of war or privateer, or other armed vessel of the other party, the said vessels of war, privateers or armed vessels, for avoiding all disorder, shall remain without reach of cannon, but may send their boats on board the merchant vessel which they shall meet in this manner, upon which they may not pass more than two or three men, to whom the master or commander shall exhibit his passport, containing the property of the vessel, according to the form annexed to this treaty; and the vessel, after having

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1782 exhibited such passport, sea-letter, and other documents, shall be free to continue her voyage, so that it shall not be lawful to molest her, or search her in any manner, nor to give her chase, nor to force her to alter her course.

“ XXVII. It shall be lawful for merchants, captains, and commanders of vessels, whether public and of war, or private and of merchants, belonging to the said United States of America, or any of them, or to their subjects and inhabitants, to take freely into their services and receive on board of their vessels, in any port or place in the jurisdiction of their High Mightinesses aforesaid, seamen or others, natives or inhabitants of any of the said States, upon such conditions as they shall agree on, without being subject for this to any fine, penalty, punishment, process, or reprehension whatsoever; and reciprocally, all merchants, captains, and commanders, belonging to the said United Netherlands, shall enjoy in all the ports and places under the obedience of the said United States of America, the same privilege of engaging and receiving seamen, or others, natives or inhabitants of any country of the domination of the said States General; provided that neither on the one side nor the other, they may not take into their service, such of their countrymen who have already engaged in the service of the other party contracting, whether in war or trade, and whether they meet them by land or sea; at least, if the captains or masters, under the command of whom such persons may be found, will not, of his own consent, discharge them from their service, upon pain of being otherwise treated and punished as deserters.

“ XXVIII. The affair of refraction shall be regulated in all equity and justice, by the magistrates of cities respectively, where it shall be judged that there is any room to complain in this respect.

“ XXIX. The present treaty shall be ratified and approved by their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, and by the United States of America, and the acts of ratification shall be delivered in good and due form on one side and the other, in the space of six months, or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature.

“ In faith of which, we, the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the Lords States General of the United Netherlands, and the minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, in virtue of our respective authorities and full powers, have signed the present treaty, and opposed thereto the seals of our arms.

“ Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1782.”

The Form of the Passport which shall be given to Ships and Vessels, in consequence of the twenty-fifth Article of this Treaty.

“ To all who shall see these presents, greeting: be it known, that leave and permission are hereby given to master and commander of the ship or vessel called of the burden of tons, or thereabouts, lying at present in the port or haven of bound for and laden with to depart and proceed with the said ship or vessel on his said voyage, such ship or vessel having been visited, and the said master and commander having made oath before the proper officer, that the said ship or vessel belongs to one or more of the subjects, people, or inhabitants of and to him or them only.

“ In witness whereof, we have subscribed our names to these presents, and affixed the seal of our arms thereto, and caused the same to be countersigned by at this day of in the year of our Lord Christ”

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1782 Form of the Certificates which shall be given to Ships or Vessels in consequence of the twenty-fifth Article of this Treaty.

" We magistrates or officers of the customs of the city or port of do certify and attest, that on the day of in the year of our Lord C. D. of personally appeared before us, and declared by solemn oath, that the ship or vessel called of tons, or thereabouts, whereof of is at present master or commander, does rightfully and properly belong to him or them only. That she is now bound for the city or port of to the port of laden with goods and merchandizes hereunder particularly described and enumerated as follows :

" In witness whereof we have signed this certificate, and sealed it with the seal of our office, this day of in the year of our Lord Christ."

Form of the Sea Letter.

" Most Serene, Serene, Most Puissant, Puissant, High, Illustrious, Noble, Honourable, Venerable, Wise and Prudent Lords, Emperors, Kings, Republics, Princes, Dukes, Earls, Barons, Lords, Burgomasters, Schepens, Counsellors, as also Judges, Officers, Justiciaries and Regents, of all the good cities and places, whether ecclesiastical or secular, who shall see these patents, or hear them read : we, Burgomasters and Regents of the city of make known that the master of appearing before us, has declared upon oath, that the vessel called of the burden of about lasts, which he at present navigates, is of the United Provinces, and that no subjects of the enemy have any part or portion therein, directly or indirectly, so may God Almighty help him ; and as we wish to see the said master prosper in his lawful affairs, our prayer is, to all the before-mentioned, and to each of them separately, where the said master shall arrive with his vessel and cargo, that they may please to receive the said master with goodness, and to treat him in a becoming manner, permitting him upon the usual tolls and expences, in passing and repassing, to pass, navigate and frequent the ports, passes and territories, to the end, to transact the business where and in what manner he shall judge proper ; whereof we shall be willingly indebted.

" In witness, and for cause whereof, we affix hereto the seal of this city,"

In the Margin.

" By ordinance of the High and Mighty Lords, the States General of the United Netherlands.

" And whereas a convention, concerning vessels recaptured, was at the place and on the day above-mentioned, concluded by the said minister plenipotentiary, on the part of these United States, with the said plenipotentiaries on the part of the said Lords the States General of the United Netherlands ; and the same hath been this day approved and ratified by the United States in Congress assembled, as it is contained in the words following, to wit :

Convention between the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, concerning Vessels recaptured.

" The Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and the United States of America, being inclined to establish some uniform principles, with relation to prizes made by vessels of war, and commissioned by the two contracting powers, upon their common enemies, and to vessels of the subjects of either party captured by the enemy, and recaptured by vessels of war commissioned by either party, have agreed upon the following articles :

" Article I. The vessels of either of the two nations, recaptured by the privateers of the other, shall be restored to the first proprietor, if such vessels have not been four and twenty hours

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1782 hours in the power of the enemy; provided the owner of the vessel recaptured pay therefore one-third of the value of the vessel, as also of that of the cargo, the cannons and apparel; which third shall be valued by agreement between the parties interested, or if they cannot agree thereon among themselves, they shall address themselves to the officers of the Admiralty of the place where the privateer, who has retaken the vessel shall have conducted her.

“ II. If the vessel recaptured has been more than 24 hours in the power of the enemy, she shall belong entirely to the privateer who has retaken her.

“ III. In case a vessel shall have been recaptured by a vessel of war belonging to the States General of the United Netherlands, or to the United States of America, she shall be restored to the first owner, he paying a thirtieth part of the value of the ship, her cargo, cannons and apparel, if she has been recaptured in the interval of 24 hours, and the tenth part if she has been recaptured after the 24 hours; which sums shall be distributed in form of gratifications to the crews of the vessels which shall have retaken her. The valuation of the said thirtieth parts and tenth parts shall be regulated according to the tenor of the first article of the present convention.

“ IV. The restitution of prizes, whether they may have been retaken by vessels of war or privateers, in the mean time, and until requisite and sufficient proofs can be given of the property of vessels recaptured, shall be admitted in a reasonable time, under sufficient sureties for the observation of the aforesaid articles.

“ V. The vessels of war and privateers, of one and the other of the two nations, shall be reciprocally, both in Europe and in the other parts of the world, admitted in the respective ports of each, with their prizes, which may be unloaded and sold according to the formalities used in the state where the prizes shall have been conducted, as far as may be consistent with the twenty-second article of the treaty of commerce: provided always, that the legality of prizes, by the vessels of the Low Countries, shall be decided conformably to the customs and regulations established in the United Netherlands; as likewise, that of prizes made by American vessels, shall be judged according to the laws and regulations determined by the United States of America.

“ VI. Moreover it shall be free for the States General of the United Netherlands, as well as for the United States of America, to make such regulations as they shall judge necessary, relative to the conduct which their respective vessels and privateers ought to hold in relation to the vessels which they shall have taken and conducted into the ports of the two powers.

“ In faith of which, we, the deputies and plenipotentiaries of the Lords the States General of the United Netherlands, and minister plenipotentiary of the United States of America, have in virtue of our respective authorities, and full powers, signed these presents, and confirmed the same with the seal of our arms.

“ Done at the Hague, the 8th of October, 1782.”

This convention was ratified in Congress, on the 23d of January, 1783.

In consequence of the resolutions of the British Parliament for an accommodation with the American Colonies, and the powers granted to the crown for negotiating and concluding a general or particular peace or truce with the whole or with any part of that people, and for suspending and setting aside all former laws, whose operations were in contravention to that purpose. Instructions had been dispatched to Sir Guy Carleton, who succeeded Sir Henry Clinton in the command of the British army in America, to use his endeavours towards carrying the same into effect.

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1782 In consequence of these instructions, the British commander informed General Washington of the proceedings of Parliament, and of the commission that he had received; and to accelerate the purposes of it, he demanded a passport for Mr. Morgan, his secretary, granting him permission to repair to Congress. General Washington, referring this request to that body, it passed a resolution in the negative. The idea of a general or separate negotiation with Great Britain, or of any treaty without the participation of France, was rejected with much warmth by the various provinces of the union. They unanimously concurred in declaring, that no accommodation should take place, which was not founded on the general consent of the United States, and conformably to the stipulations made with the allies. The State of Pennsylvania in particular, resolved, that all men, or bodies of men, who should agree to a separate treaty with Great Britain, should be considered as foes to the union, and that any proffers on the part of Great Britain, to the prejudice of their alliance with France, should be rejected with disdain. It even passed a declaration, that Congress itself possessed no right to frame any act tending to abrogate the supreme authority and independence of any province of the union.

In conformity to these sentiments, Congress declared, at the same time, that no amicable conference could be held with any commissioners from Great Britain, without a preliminary acknowledgment of the independence of America, or withdrawing its fleets and armies from that country. Indeed, so suspicious were they of a schism in the States, should opportunities be given for making such offers of advantage as might be expected from the political interest of Great Britain, that Congress, in order to preclude all hope of compassing a separate treaty, strongly recommended that a watchful eye should be kept against the entrance of emissaries from Britain into the United States; that no individuals coming among them under flags of truce, should be allowed any communication with the inhabitants, but such as immediately related to the business that brought them; and even that no person coming from any part of the British dominions should, during the war, have admission into any of the United States.

To bring about a peace, was an object of the most anxious attention to the new administration; and, as the independence of America was granted, there did not seem to be any uncommon impediment in the way to prevent the immediate restoration of general tranquillity; and in order to settle the preliminaries and smooth the way for opening a negotiation in due form, Mr. Grenville had been for some time in Paris.

In the mean time, the death of the Marquis of Rockingham occasioned another change of administration;—the Duke of Portland, Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish, and several others quitted their posts on this occasion,—when the Earl of Shelburne was appointed to the Treasury,—Mr. William Pitt was made Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Mr. T. Townshend and Lord Grantham, Secretaries of State,—and the Earl Temple succeeded to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland.

The work of peace still proceeded,—Mr. Fitzherbert, the Britannic Minister at Brussels, was ordered to repair to Paris, when he was appointed plenipotentiary on the part of England, to negotiate and conclude a treaty of peace with the ministers of France, Spain and Holland. Mr. Oswald, a merchant of distinguished commercial knowledge, was likewise dispatched to the same place, as commissioner from the court of London, for treating of peace with John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, John Jay, and Henry Laurens, four of the commissioners appointed for the same purpose on the part of the United States of America.

On the 23d of November, the Lord Mayor of London and the Governor of the Bank received letters from the Secretary of State, which acquainted them, for the information of the public,

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1782 public, and to prevent the mischiefs arising from speculations in the funds, that the negotiations carrying on at Paris were brought so far to a point, as to promise a decisive conclusion either for peace or war before the meeting of Parliament, which, on that account, was prorogued to the 5th of December.

On the 3d of December, the Lord Mayor, &c. received a second letter from the Secretary of State, which informed him, that provisional articles had been signed at Paris on the 30th of November, by his Majesty's commissioners and the commissioners of the United States of America, to be inserted in and constitute a treaty of peace to be concluded, when terms of peace shall be agreed upon between Great Britain and France.

Such was the situation of public affairs when Parliament assembled. The speech from the throne which opened this session was of unusual length, and comprehended every subject which could, with propriety, be offered to the consideration of Parliament.

It began with the assurance that his Majesty had, since the close of the last session, employed his whole time in attending to the critical conjuncture of public affairs. It then stated, that no time had been lost in putting an end to the prosecution of offensive war in North America; and, after informing Parliament that he had offered to declare the colonies of North America free and independent states, and that provisional articles were actually agreed upon, to take effect when the terms of accommodation could be finally adjusted with the court of France, his Majesty proceeds in the following expressive manner:—"In thus admitting their separation from the crown of these kingdoms, I have sacrificed every consideration of my own to the wishes and opinion of my people. I make it my humble and earnest prayer to Almighty God, that Great Britain may not feel the evils which might result from so great a dismemberment of the empire; and that America may be free from those calamities which have formerly proved, in the mother country, how essential monarchy is to the enjoyment of constitutional liberty."

The defence and relief of Gibraltar, &c. and the subsequent conduct of the fleet, were mentioned in terms of the highest panegyric. The negotiations for a general peace were announced as considerably advanced,—at the same time a perfect confidence was expressed, that, if the expectations of completing it should be frustrated, the most vigorous efforts would be used in the further prosecution of the war. The House of Commons was assured of the endeavours that had been, and would continue to be made, to promote œconomy in the public expenditure. The payment of the debt still remaining on the civil list, and the relief of the American sufferers, were recommended to their consideration. Their attention was also called to the regulations that had been adopted in their incidental expences, fees, and other emoluments of office;—to the landed revenue of the crown, and the managements of its woods and forests;—to the department of the mint;—to the general state of the public receipts and expenditure of the public debt;—and to such a mode of conducting future loans, as to promote the means of its gradual redemption. The practice of payment by navy, ordnance, and victualling bills, was strongly reprobated; and a more correct method of making up the estimates for the service of the year was promised. The high price of corn was then adverted to,—the frequency of theft and robbery was mentioned, and the prevention of those crimes, by correcting the prevailing vices of the times, earnestly recommended. The liberal principles which had been adopted with regard to the rights and commerce of Ireland, were mentioned with great approbation. A revision of our whole trading system, with a view of its greatest possible extension, was recommended,—and some fundamental regulation of our Asiatic territories was required, that all foreign nations, in matters of foreign commerce, might possess an entire and perfect confidence

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1782 confidence in the probity, punctuality and good order of the British government. His Majesty concluded this important speech with declaring, that the spirit of the constitution should be the invariable rule of his conduct,—that he would reward merit on all occasions, and in every profession,—and that the temper, wisdom, and disinterestedness of Parliament, collectively and individually, were necessary to ensure the full advantage of a government conducted on such principles.

Addresses in the usual style were moved in both Houses, and carried *nemine contradicente*: but though these addresses were voted without a dissentient voice, and even without any amendment being proposed,—neither the speech, nor the conduct of the new ministers, escaped the severe examination of the opposite party. During the sitting of Parliament previous to the Christmas recess, a variety of discussions took place relating to the subject of pacification, in which the abilities of administration and its opponents, were displayed with no common heat and acrimony: but the principal object was of too much importance to be affected by any collateral consideration,—and it seemed to be the prevailing opinion of all parties, that no impediment should be thrown in the way of peace. After voting thanks to Governor Elliot, Lieutenant General Boyd, with the other officers, &c. employed in the defence of Gibraltar,—conferring the same honour on Sir Edward Hughes, for his services in the East Indies, and passing the land tax and malt bills, &c. the Parliament was adjourned to the 21st day of the approaching month of January, 1783.

Great Britain was not singular in feeling a desire for the return of peace; similar sentiments prevailed among all her enemies. Notwithstanding the incumbrances with which she was oppressed,—though deprived of her North American colonies, and greatly injured by subsequent losses, she had yet proved strong enough to resist their united powers. Her strength was yet vigorous, and her resources were not yet exhausted: the spirit of her councils was not enfeebled, and the nation at large, however it might have been divided in regard to the American war, continued inflexibly resolute in the determination to face all its enemies.

France, the great support of the confederacy against Britain, began to feel an alarming diminution of those means by which she had hitherto continued to maintain it. The expences of the war pressed very heavily upon her, as she had not only her own fleets and armies to support, but was called upon by America for pecuniary, as well as other supplies. Her trade had materially suffered in the beginning of the war, and the numerous individuals whose affairs had been essentially injured at this period, had not yet recovered from their embarrassments. In the European seas, though assisted by the whole naval power of Spain, she had not been able to make any impression on the coast or marine of Great Britain, or to prevent the usual and established course of its commerce. Her credit was, at length, beginning to totter,—while the Americans were continually complaining of the tardiness of her remittances, and did not hesitate to ascribe, in the most unreserved manner, many of the disasters which beset them to her deficiencies in that particular.

Spain, the other great member of the confederacy, was considered, with great reason, as having acted a part, upon this occasion, totally inconsistent with the maxims she ought to have adopted respecting America. The empire which she had now been assisting to form itself in the northern part of that hemisphere, where she herself possessed such an extent of dominion, was incompatible with her interests;—but in this, as in many other instances, the Spanish nation was sacrificed to ministerial intrigues. The recovery of Jamaica in the new world, and of Minorca in the old, and, above all, of Gibraltar, was described as a compensation which
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1782 would amply repay the trouble and expence that might be occasioned by uniting with France in support of the British colonies. Allured by such engaging representations, and influenced, without doubt, by a regard to the family compact, the Spanish court entered into this combination against Great Britain, without perceiving or duly considering the consequences of it. The capture of Minorca had lately renewed the spirits of the Spanish nation,—but the subsequent failure of their arms before Gibraltar, had caused a very superior degree of depression. This mortifying circumstance, with the complete relief of that fortress, in the face, and in defiance of the whole naval strength of the House of Bourbon, together with the preceding defeat of the noblest fleet that France had ever sent to the West Indies, were events that convinced the ministry of Spain how erroneously it had been led to expect, that the humiliation of Great Britain would be a work of facility, in the difficult circumstances wherein she was involved by dispute with her refractory colonies.

Holland, the last member of the confederacy, in point of power as well as of time, had every reason in the world to desire a termination of the quarrel in which she had engaged.—Never had that state exhibited such symptoms of debility as at the present moment. Its arsenals at home were empty, and its dependencies abroad without any adequate defence. Separated from its ancient and natural ally, it depended entirely upon France for the protection of its foreign possessions; so that it was obliged to submit without reserve, in all the measures of its government, to the will of the French ministry. In this precarious and fallen state, the Dutch could hardly be said to have any power of their own, and were to be considered as nothing more than the passive instruments of France.

Such were the reciprocal situations of the several belligerent powers, towards the close of the year 1782,—by which it appears, that however great their ambition, or violent their resentments might be, they were all desirous of peace, as they were all in a condition to make its restoring powers essential to their future prosperity.

The dissensions and commotions at Geneva not only continued to increase, but to be attended with the most ruinous consequences to that republic. By the original constitution of Geneva, the sovereign power of the state was invested in the general council, which consisted of all the citizens, &c.: but, by degrees, the magistrates and senate had greatly increased their own power, and diminished the privileges of the people. Repeated complaints were made by the latter, that the former had exceeded their authority and encroached upon their rights.—The senate occasionally imposed taxes, without the consent of the general council; and the severity with which the magistrates and senate sometimes punished those who had censured and opposed their attempts to extend the bounds of their authority, had contributed to increase the number of malcontents. Such a state of things naturally occasioned frequent contests; and to prevent a continuance of disputes, the democratical party required a regular code of laws, which should be for the rulers the foundation of their authority, and for the people the known standard of their obedience: mutual confidence was about to rest upon the basis of public order and common security, when by the intrigues of the aristocratical party, this salutary project was defeated. The magistrates not only employed the most unjustifiable practices for the support of their authority, and made the most exaggerated representations of the opposition set up against them by the other citizens; but endeavoured to obtain the interference of foreign powers, and in this fatal measure were unfortunately successful. The interposition of the court of France, and the two aristocratical cantons of Zurich and Bern, greatly increased the troubles of the republic. These mediators could not agree, and in the month of May, in this year

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1782 year, a body of 12,000 troops, belonging to the King of France, the Swiss Cantons and the King of Sardinia, formed the blockade of that city. In this state of things, the citizens found themselves obliged to admit the troops within their walls; and the mediating powers prepared a new code of laws for the republic of Geneva,—but so inconsistent with the liberties of the people, or the independence of the republic, that numbers of the citizens immediately resolved to quit their country, and to seek some other region where freedom might be enjoyed.—Some attempts were made to interest the British ministry in the fate of that republic, but this was not a moment for Great Britain to exert itself in such a cause. It became a resolution, however, of many of the citizens of Geneva to quit their country and to fix their residence in Ireland, and agents were accordingly employed to procure them settlements in that kingdom, where they met with the most liberal encouragement from the government, from the nobility, and from the nation at large. At an assembly of the delegates of 34 different corps of volunteers of the province of Leinster, it was unanimously resolved, “That the virtuous citizens of Geneva, who wished for an asylum in that kingdom from the hand of tyranny and oppression, deserved their highest commendation, and that they who established themselves in Ireland should, upon every occasion, receive their utmost attention and support.”

The total number of vessels which arrived at Dantzic, during this year, amounted to 502, among which there was not one under Dutch colours; and the number of those which sailed for that port during the same period, amounted to 549. Most of the Dantzic vessels were at this time employed in carrying ship-building timber to England, and had very high freights.

The quantity of indigo imported into England from India during this year, was 25,575 lbs. The indigo annually exported to Great Britain from America, on an average of three years, viz. 1768, 1769, 1770, amounted to 602,973 lbs.

The Canada sales, which are every spring in London, of the furs and peltry sent the preceding year, amounted in this year to 189,000l.

It is a circumstance which well deserves the public attention, that Russia, during this year, exported 350 tons of candles, and that she has lowered the duties on that article when exported. Both the soap and candle trade are of considerable benefit to Britain and Ireland.

The average quantity of rum imported for ten years from 1773 to 1782, was 2,062,842 gallons;—ditto exported, 617,939.

The necessity of taking some effectual means to prevent the smuggling of wool, is evident from the increase of that practice. In 1770, the quantity seized was only 30 lbs:—in 1780, it had increased to 12,383 lbs.;—and in 1782, it amounted to 13,916 lbs.

The number of ships which were employed from England in the whale fishery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, during this year, amounted to 38; the bounty being at 30s. per ton. The war prevented any Dutch ships from engaging, at present, in that fishery.

The state of insurance of ships, at this period, was as follows:

From London to the West Indies, with convoy, 10 per cent. or 20 to return 10.

To Jamaica, with convoy, 12 per cent. or 20 to return 8.

To New York and Halifax, with convoy, 15 guineas per cent. or 25 to return 10, if ships of force;—without convoy, if ships of force, 25 to return 8.

To Cork, Waterford, and Dublin, 6 guineas per cent.

From Ireland to the West Indies, (except Jamaica) with convoy, 10 per cent. or 20 to return 10.

To Jamaica, 12 per cent. or 22 to return 10.

VOL. IV.

3 K

From

A. D.

1782

From Ireland to Portugal, 15 to 20 per cent. to return 5 to 10, if with convoy.

To the Mediterranean, an advance of 3 per cent.

From the West Indies to Great Britain or Ireland, with convoy, 15 guineas per cent.:—without convoy, 20l. per cent. unless ships of force.

From Jamaica to any ports of Great Britain or Ireland, 25 per cent. to return 8, if without convoy; or 16 per cent. warranted with convoy.

From Liverpool, Bristol, and Glasgow, to New York, 25 to 30 per cent. to return 16 per cent. for convoy.

To the West Indies, 20 per cent.

To Jamaica 20 per cent. to return 8 for convoy.

The revenues of Russia, at this period, appear, from the most authentic accounts, to be as follows:—reduced into sterling money.

	£.
Poll tax, — — —	1,900,000
Crown lands, Great Russia, —	600,000
Ditto, Little Russia, —	209,000
Ditto, Poland, — —	300,000
Ditto, in Swedish conquests, —	80,000
Salt, — — —	520,000
Hemp and iron, — —	370,000
Pot ashes, — — —	85,000
Customs, — — —	260,000
Baths and licensed houses, —	100,000
Internal duties, — —	560,000
Trade of Siberia, — —	36,000
Total,	5,020,000

Total revenues in Russia amounted, in 1720, to 2,000,000

in 1740, to 3,600,000

in 1760, to 4,100,000

The quantity of linen exported from Ireland to Great Britain for one year, ending with the 25th of March in the present year, is as follows:—linen-cloth, plain, 24,692,072 yards, value 1,646,138l. 2s. 8d.;—linen, coloured, 767 yards, value 62l. 6s. 4½d.

The quantity exported from Ireland to every other country, (exclusive of Great Britain) for one year, ending with the 25th of March in the present year, is, linen cloth, plain, 278,231 yards, value 18,548l. 14s. 8d.; linen, coloured, 73,655¼ yards, value 5,984l. 9s. 9d.

The importation of woollen cloth from Great Britain and Ireland, during this year, was,

	Yards.
Old drapery, — —	362,824
New drapery, — —	547,336
Total,	910,160

The quantity of ribbands exported from Ireland in this year, was 19 lbs. 4 ozs.; and the amount of the manufactured silk exported, was 370 lbs. 3 ozs.

The following is the export of cotton yarn manufactures and mixtures of cotton from Ireland, during the present year:—cotton yarn, 8,798 pounds weight; manufacture and mixture of cotton to the value of 414l. 7s.

Export

A. D.

1782 Export of iron and iron ware from Ireland, in the same period, was, hardware to the value of 22l. 11s. 4d.; ironmongers ware, to 2l. 19s.; and wrought iron to the amount of 75 cwt. 3 qrs. 7 lbs.

The export of glass from Ireland in this year, was, bottles, 1,738 dozen;—glass ware to the value of 172l. 11s.

The importation of stockings into Ireland, was as follows:

					Pair.
Cotton,	—	—	—	—	20,490
Silk,	—	—	—	—	360
Silk and Worsted,	—	—	—	—	348
Thread,	—	—	—	—	39,717
Woollen,	—	—	—	—	1,617
Worsted,	—	—	—	—	9,617

Export from Ireland of the same article, in the same period, was,

					Dozen.	Pairs.
Thread,	—	—	—	—	14	0
Woollen,	—	—	—	—	139	0
Worsted,	—	—	—	—	138	3

The number of hats exported from Ireland in this year, amounted to 450.

The value of the upholstery imported into that kingdom during the same period, was 3,977l. 17s. 11½d.;—and the value of that exported, was 629l. 18s. 3d.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland in this year, was, books, unbound, 55 cwt. 14 lb.;—writing paper, 200 reams.

An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Asia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to the kingdom of Ireland, from the 25th of March, 1781, inclusive, to the 25th of March, 1782.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.		
	Lbs.	Yards.	£.	s.	d.
Stained Callico, —	—	1,836	459	0	0
White ditto, —	—	860	172	0	0
Muslin, —	—	54,140	9,006	16	8
India Silks and Stuffs, —	—	—	—	—	—
Drugs, —	—	—	10,121	7	6½
Cinnamon, —	222¾	—	89	2	0
Cloves, —	562	—	281	0	0
Mace, —	272¼	—	226	17	6
Nutmegs, —	3,539	—	1,769	10	0
Pepper, —	43,401¾	—	2,893	9	0
Pimento, —	5,392	—	269	12	0
Rice, —	91,882	—	738	6	9
Saltpetre, —	99,610	—	2,248	8	9
China raw Silks, —	46,694½	—	46,694	3	4
Bohea Tea, —	887,767	—	88,776	14	0
Green ditto, —	433,248	—	129,974	8	0
	3 K 2				

An

A. D.

1782

An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland.

EXPORTED.

1782.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	6,497	1,040
Wheat Flour, &c.	124,495	2,332
Rye, —	3,994	9
Barley, —	28,351	45
Malt, —	79,324	—
Oats, —	10,555	7,018
Oatmeal, —	2,113	40
Beans, —	19,493	226
Peas, —	5,133	860

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	552	—
Wheat Flour, —	11,235	—
Barley and Bear, —	12,935	—
Barley Meal, —	28	—
Malt, —	7,062	—
Oats, —	1,089	—
Oatmeal, —	2,501	—
Peas and Beans, —	416	—

IMPORTED.

1782.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	76,079
Wheat Flour, —	3,700
— — — —	—
Barley, —	11,954
— — — —	—
Oats, —	33,758
— — — —	—
Beans, —	3,619
Peas, —	4,553

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	666
Wheat Flour, —	250
Barley, —	1,638
— — — —	—
— — — —	—
Oats, —	3,929
Oatmeal, —	875
Peas, —	386

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the course of this year, amounted to 42,281l. 3s. 11½d.

The drawbacks, during the same period, were 55l. 7s. 1d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same time, was 5,633l. 3s. 5½d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 2,270l. 2s. 7d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 79l. 14s. 6d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 11¾d.; rye, 3s. 7¼d.; barley, 2s. 9¾d.; oats, 1s. 10¾d.; beans, 3s. 3d.

The seven following tables contain abundant matter of commercial intelligence. They shew the amount of the principal American and West Indian staple commodities, which were imported into or exported from Great Britain, during the year 1773, the most prosperous of our commerce, and during 1782, the year of the most general war the nation ever sustained. The imports and exports of 1773, exhibit a view of our colony trade during its usual course; those of 1782 point out the circuitous course that the ingenuity of commercial enterprize had found for ventures, under the greatest embarrassments. The tables which succeed, give the total of the imports and exports of the before-mentioned staple commodities for a period of ten years, shewing their fluctuations in peace and war, and the bad effect of war on commerce. They seem to prove, however, that the duties laid on during the war, had no great effect on the imports, particularly of sugar and rum.

An

An Account of SUGAR imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.		Imported.		Imported.		Imported.	
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb
Africa, - - -	—	268 0 10	—	—	—	125 0 11	—	—
Canaries, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway, - - -	—	124 3 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Country, - - -	—	26 0 0	—	—	—	70 0 21	—	—
East Indies, - - -	—	272 3 16	—	—	—	379 1 24	—	—
Flanders, - - -	—	15 0 0	—	—	—	1865 2 26	—	—
France, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - - -	—	1814 1 2	—	62 2 0	—	2562 2 8	—	1722 1 26
Greenland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - - -	—	147 2 14	—	1 3 10	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	—	138856 1 4	—	55513 2 22	—	77812 0 16	—	6735 1 8
Isle of Man, - - -	—	1179 3 21	—	—	—	796 3 10	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	174 3 14	—	—	—	7 1 0	—	—
Madeira, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	4 0 0	—	—
Portugal, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	252 0 21	—	—
Spain, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	285 1 0	—	—
Streights, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - - -	—	2541 2 21	—	8 3 24	—	—	—	—
Turkey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - - -	—	38 3 4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Guernsey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Jersey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Providence, - - -	1 26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	899 1 11	—	98 3 19
Carolina, - - -	51 1 7	—	—	87 3 2	1	—	—	—
Florida, - - -	24 1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia, - - -	—	—	89 2 7	7 3 0	—	—	—	—
Hudson's Bay, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	34 1 0	—	—
New England, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, - - -	1 2	—	8 3 24	70 0 0	—	73 0 12	—	140 0 9
New York, - - -	—	1 2 5	—	1 0 0	250 0 0	—	—	—
Nova Scotia, - - -	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	15 1 7	—	1 0 5
Pennsylvania, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland, - - -	1019 3 14	1 3 12	—	833 0 26	—	—	—	—
West Indies.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Antigua, - - -	80885 1 25	—	3080 0 23	20 1 11	149181 1 6	—	5498 1 24	172 3 24
Anguilla, - - -	—	—	—	—	24422 0 9	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - - -	110911 2 4	2 0	—	11 2 14	74636 0 0	—	—	—
Dominica, - - -	44128 2 7	2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - - -	198159 2 21	—	4519 1 7	13 1 3	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - - -	1017091 1 7	2 0	40866 3 16	43 1 27	654077 3 20	—	36144 1 9	16 3 22
Montserrat, - - -	33776 0 25	—	—	—	31268 2 19	—	—	—
Nevis, - - -	27430 1 11	—	2939 0 9	2 0 3	32891 2 22	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, - - -	106368 1 18	—	4289 1 3	18 0 24	165139 3 0	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - - -	—	—	—	—	91749 0 0	—	9185 1 8	41 2 24
St. Vincent's, - - -	58691 1 7	—	2392 3 11	11 2 27	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -	—	—	—	—	22963 0 11	—	—	2 0 15
St. Thomas's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobago, - - -	14153 3 17	—	—	—	30 3 2	—	—	—
Tortola, - - -	30126 3 24	—	—	—	66412 3 1	—	6542 2 1	2 0 16
New Orleans, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Islands, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - - -	—	—	—	—	99 0 14	—	—	5 1 16
Musquito Shore, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Eustatia, St. Croix, - - -	8843 3 12	—	12101 1 23	—	1093 1 26	—	117 1 4	—
	1731664 3	1145465 0 14	79287 2 21	56673 1 25	1315025 3 17	85176 2 7	57487 3 18	8939 0 26

An Account of R U M imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Africa, - -	—	131145	—	—	—	13287	—	—
Canaries, - -	—	588	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway, - -	—	3370	—	—	—	201	—	—
East Country, - -	—	4293	—	—	—	219	—	—
East Indies, - -	—	25503	—	—	—	23664	—	—
Flanders, - -	—	10521	—	—	—	46424	—	—
France, - -	—	575	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - -	—	6824	—	—	—	455	—	—
Greenland, - -	—	—	—	—	—	304	—	—
Holland, - -	—	18108	—	3159½	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - -	—	538557	—	60374	—	114113	—	110907
Isle of Man, - -	—	25582	—	—	—	21072	—	—
Italy, - -	—	17085	—	—	—	1707	—	—
Madeira, - -	—	—	—	—	—	119	—	—
Portugal, - -	—	769	—	—	—	583	—	—
Poland, - -	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—
Russia, - -	—	1955	—	—	—	429	—	—
Spain, - -	—	18469	—	534	—	—	—	—
Streights, - -	—	478	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - -	—	226	—	—	—	640	—	—
Turkey, - -	—	3370	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - -	—	1352	—	—	—	335	—	—
Island of Guernsey, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Jersey, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence, - -	10057	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - -	—	767	—	—	—	143655	—	—
Carolina, - -	1764	980	104	2267	—	572	—	3953½
Florida, - -	—	1568	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia, - -	79	233	—	203	—	—	—	—
Hudson's Bay, - -	—	544	—	—	—	333	—	—
New England, - -	917	422	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, - -	—	1031	—	—	—	9416	—	2086
New York, - -	337	317	—	—	114	4828	—	12139
Nova Scotia, - -	—	111	—	—	3	118	—	8941
Pennsylvania, - -	351	—	—	265	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland, - -	397	7795	73	5435	—	—	—	—
West Indies.								
Antigua, - -	3297	—	5055½	—	142198	489	11150½	102
Anguilla, - -	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - -	8629	428	—	—	9573	949	—	—
Dominica, - -	10951	1101	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - -	63664	222	10845½	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - -	1994478	1524	127412½	—	1295597	4391	126803	104
Montserrat, - -	2343	312	—	—	504	—	—	—
Nevis, - -	4426	—	—	—	18307	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, - -	6664	103	58	—	90120	—	12790	—
St. Lucia, - -	—	—	—	—	8744	2117	—	—
St. Vincent's, - -	26071	1514	107	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, - -	—	—	—	—	—	166	—	206
Tobago, - -	3171	339	—	—	179	—	—	—
Tortola, - -	975	104	—	—	5779	1619	—	—
New Orleans, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - -	37	618	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Islands, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Musquito Shore, - -	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Eustatia, St. Croix, - -	—	—	—	—	5437	—	—	—
	2138631	828803	143655½	72338½	1587981	392145	150743½	138438½

An Account of TOBACCO imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa, - - -		990873				54447		
Canaries, - - -								
Denmark and Norway, - - -		2573284		812650		50497	1408	
East Country, - - -		265019				15433		
East Indies, - - -		53915				24115		
Flanders, - - -		7150737			8017	107452	2318	
France, - - -		7343883		24406240		124748		
Germany, - - -		11953577		1982347	24938	129915		
Greenland, - - -		1521						
Holland, - - -		14371835		14629050		14907	3212	
Ireland, - - -		1855923		4333850		1048769		922875
Isle of Man, - - -						30370		
Italy, - - -		1378156						
Madeira, - - -		100						
Portugal, - - -								
Poland, - - -								
Russia, - - -		22048				1364		
Spain, - - -		229722						
Streights, - - -								
Sweden, - - -		1076078				3983	11750	
Turkey, - - -								
Venice, - - -		25209						
Island of Guernsey, - - -		562944						
Island of Jersey, - - -		262167						
North America, viz.								
New Providence, - - -								
Canada, - - -		98569		16782		64647		1304
Carolina, - - -	963707	6755	1651793	10926	46810	600		
Florida, - - -		1558			105291			
Georgia, - - -	49840	4211	7276	620				
Hudson's Bay, - - -		1756				1604		
New England, - - -		4830		17892				
Newfoundland, - - -		33581				32580		4905
New York, - - -	64	8747		2114	224562	108	1025751	120
Nova Scotia, - - -		3045			61911	365		
Pennsylvania, - - -				112				
Virginia & Maryland, - - -	54915282	7458	42883981					
West Indies.								
Antigua, - - -	50	115			118169	420	3310	600
Anguilla, - - -					122586			
Barbadoes, - - -		11414		18637	4578	1713		238
Dominica, - - -		7114						
Grenada, - - -		3126		356				
Jamaica, - - -		45841		4934	71130	9302		3667
Montserrat, - - -		1111						
Nevis, - - -		1789				172		
St. Kitt's, - - -		891		1428	1928			
St. Lucia, - - -					42039	367		306
St. Vincent's, - - -	14	1871						
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -								
St. Thomas's, - - -					289402	1268		280
Tobago, - - -		10373						
Tortola, - - -		10155			3274909	343	1505057	
New Orleans, - - -					18570			
Honduras, - - -								
Falkland Islands, - - -								
Bermudas, - - -							72170	
Musquito Shore, - - -		674						
Eustatia and St. Croix, - - -			44					
	55928957	50386925	44543050	46389518	7203262	2529146	2624982	934295

An Account of RICE imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz.
from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb
Africa, - - -	45 1 25	6489 3 3	—	—	12 0 14	57 2 4	—	—
Canaries, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway, - - -	—	6619 2 8	—	63 1 14	—	1302 3 16	—	—
East Country, - - -	—	3904 0 18	—	—	—	56 1 4	—	—
East Indies, - - -	4 1 7	—	—	—	4 3 20	30 1 0	—	—
Flanders, - - -	—	24910 3 12	—	—	—	1280 2 12	—	—
France, - - -	—	31985 3 20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - - -	—	15241 0 10	—	7027 3 0	—	1748 3 2	—	608 0 0
Greenland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - - -	—	242693 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	—	1690 2 11	—	155 3 3	—	55 1 23	—	—
Isle of Man, - - -	—	4 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	1636 2 0	—	—	135 3 3	4 2 0	—	—
Madeira, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal, - - -	—	5612 2 0	—	402 2 16	2404 1 14	—	—	—
Poland, - - -	—	—	—	2892 1 11	—	—	—	—
Russia, - - -	—	1279 0 10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spain, - - -	—	16657 2 20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streights, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - - -	—	1822 0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey, - - -	—	679 0 0	—	—	6 1 14	—	—	—
Venice, - - -	—	—	—	—	1 2 7	—	—	—
Island of Guernsey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Jersey, - - -	—	47 3 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Providence, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	784 1 25	—	56 1 27
Carolina, - - -	370290 2 5	—	8492 1 27	—	76 1 19	—	—	—
Florida, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Georgia, - - -	72469 1 10	—	3350 0 7	—	13 0 13	—	—	—
Hudson's Bay, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	8 0 0	—	—
New England, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, - - -	—	46 1 4	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York, - - -	2454 3 14	—	—	—	60 1 0	—	—	—
Nova Scotia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania, - - -	3857 3 18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland, - - -	—	14 0 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Indies.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Antigua, - - -	—	1 0 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	29 0 6	—	—
Monferrat, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, - - -	—	—	—	—	1 2 10	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobago, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortola, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Islands, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Musquito Shore, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eustatia and St. Croix, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	457122 1 23	361334 3 18	11842 2 6	10541 3 14	2716 2 2	5357 3 8	—	664 1 27

An Account of INDIGO imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years,
viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canaries, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway, - - -	—	4023	—	—	—	8267	—	—
East Country, - - -	—	414	—	—	—	1212	—	—
East Indies, - - -	—	—	—	—	25535	—	—	—
Flanders, - - -	67413	44049	—	—	78070	26701	—	—
France, - - -	15070	48727	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - - -	656	118770	—	—	2330	58443	—	—
Greenland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - - -	2100	46352	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	443	87701	—	—	6373	40084	—	—
Isle of Man, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	107527	—	—	—	1007	—	—
Madeira, - - -	—	850	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal, - - -	20	735	—	—	27308	—	—	—
Poland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russia, - - -	—	69347	—	—	—	33515	—	—
Spain, - - -	17442	2220	—	—	200	—	—	—
Streights, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - - -	—	47371	—	—	—	12591	—	—
Turkey, - - -	—	13333	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - - -	—	13245	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Guernsey, - - -	—	—	—	—	1120	—	—	—
Island of Jersey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.								
New Providence, - - -	5760	148	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	542	—	—
Carolina, - - -	1107660	—	1811	—	133683	—	—	—
Florida, - - -	14685	—	—	—	125533	—	—	—
Georgia, - - -	55380	—	767	—	13070	—	—	—
Hudson's Bay, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New England, - - -	11339	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York, - - -	1800	—	—	—	11660	—	2803	—
Nova Scotia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania, - - -	20945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland, - - -	3432	86	346	—	—	—	—	—
West Indies.								
Antigua, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - - -	—	—	—	—	875	—	—	—
Dominica, - - -	1000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - - -	66782	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - - -	47883	—	—	—	23368	—	—	—
Montserrat, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis, - - -	—	—	—	—	115	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, - - -	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - - -	—	—	—	—	1027	—	—	—
St. Vincent's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -	—	—	—	—	1241	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, - - -	—	—	—	—	8843	—	—	—
Tobago, - - -	2200	—	—	—	4050	—	—	—
Tortola, - - -	—	—	—	—	37872	—	982	—
New Orleans, - - -	—	—	—	—	64200	—	—	—
Honduras, - - -	43793	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Islands, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - - -	5000	—	—	—	2900	—	207	—
Musquito Shore, - - -	27749	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Eustatia, St. Croix, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1518552	604898	2924	—	569443	182362	3992	—

An Account of COCHINEAL imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years,
viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.		SCOTLAND, 1773.		ENGLAND, 1782.		SCOTLAND, 1782.	
	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.	Imported.	Exported.
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Africa, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canaries, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark & Norway, - - -	—	754	—	—	—	361	—	—
East Country, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	25	—	—
East Indies, - - -	—	9682	—	—	—	813	—	—
Flanders, - - -	1040	1070	—	—	100016	490	—	54
France, - - -	—	3522	—	—	—	—	—	—
Germany, - - -	—	1421	—	—	—	2973	—	—
Greenland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland, - - -	5061	14767	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland, - - -	411	799	—	—	—	4220	—	—
Isle of Man, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Italy, - - -	—	1310	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madeira, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal, - - -	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russia, - - -	—	9348	—	—	—	5070	—	—
Spain, - - -	161876	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Streights, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden, - - -	—	707	—	—	—	713	—	—
Turkey, - - -	—	532	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venice, - - -	—	231	—	—	—	—	—	—
Island of Guernsey, - - -	—	—	—	—	1200	—	—	—
Island of Jersey, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North America, viz.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Providence, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida, - - -	407	—	—	—	3000	—	—	—
Georgia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hudson's Bay, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New England, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nova Scotia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland, - - -	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Indies.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Antigua, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anguilla, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbadoes, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dominica, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jamaica, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Montserrat, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Lucia, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Thomas's, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobago, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortola, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Orleans, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Honduras, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falkland Islands, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bermudas, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Musquito Shore, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Eustatia, St. Croix, - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	169245	44153	—	—	104216	14665	—	54

An Account of COFFEE imported into and exported from GREAT BRITAIN, for two years, viz. from CHRISTMAS 1772 to CHRISTMAS 1773, and from CHRISTMAS 1781 to 1782.

	ENGLAND, 1773.					SCOTLAND, 1773.		The particulars from whence imported, or where exported to, are not distinguished in the account sent from the Customs-house for 1782.—The totals are as follow: :
	Imported.	For. Plant. imported.	E. Indies. exported.	Brit. Planta. exported.	For. Plant. exported.	Brit. Plant. imported.	Brit. Plant. exported.	
	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	cwt. qrs. lb	
Africa, - - -			1 22	10 2 16				Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Canaries, - - -								
Denmark and Norway, - - -			182 0 9	1436 1 22				ENGLAND. Exported British Coffee, Foreign, Imported British, Foreign, cwt. qrs. lb. 2484 2 0 495 2 20 2820 2 7 443 3 3
East Country, - - -			13 0 15	57 2 18				
East Indies, - - -	4 1 0		3 0					SCOTLAND.
Flanders, - - -			760 3 21					
France, - - -								Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Germany, - - -			452 2 8	26508 3 0	5789 2 5		15 1 16	
Greenland, - - -								ENGLAND.
Holland, - - -			604 3 16	12181 0 9	115 2 1			
Ireland, - - -			248 0 8	60 3 6				SCOTLAND.
Isle of Man, - - -								
Italy, - - -	13 0 1		1493 1 0	953 2 24	184 0 16			Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Madeira, - - -								
Portugal, - - -				97 1 3				ENGLAND.
Poland, - - -								
Russia, - - -				95 2 6				SCOTLAND.
Spain, - - -	2 11		2 2 20	2 3 0				
Streights, - - -								Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Sweden, - - -				934 3 23				
Turkey, - - -			113 2 26	110 2 12				ENGLAND.
Venice, - - -			21 3 14	599 0 0				
Island of Guernsey, - - -								SCOTLAND.
Island of Jersey, - - -								
North America, viz.								Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
New Providence, - - -	4 1 0							
Canada, - - -								ENGLAND.
Carolina, - - -	359 1 6							
Florida, - - -								SCOTLAND.
Georgia, - - -								
Hudson's Bay, - - -								Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
New England, - - -	1 3 0		2 2 16					
Newfoundland, - - -								ENGLAND.
New York, - - -	37 0 14							
Nova Scotia, - - -								SCOTLAND.
Pennsylvania, - - -	21 1 10	180 0 0						
Virginia & Maryland, - - -			2 1 7					Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
West Indies.								
Antigua, - - -								ENGLAND.
Anguilla, - - -								
Barbadoes, - - -	33 2 22							SCOTLAND.
Dominica, - - -	15709 1 15	8562 0 16						
Grenada, - - -	17696 2 0							Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Jamaica, - - -	3770 1 5							
Montserrat, - - -	600 3 25							ENGLAND.
Nevis, - - -								
St. Kitt's, - - -								SCOTLAND.
St. Lucia, - - -								
St. Vincent's, - - -	7348 0 6							Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
St. Martin's, Demerara, - - -								
St. Thomas's, - - -								ENGLAND.
Tobago, - - -								
Tortola, - - -								SCOTLAND.
New Orleans, - - -								
Honduras, - - -								Coffee exported, Ditto imported, cwt. qrs. lb. 4649 1 17 1045 1 20
Falkland Islands, - - -								
Bermudas, - - -								ENGLAND.
Musquito Shore, - - -								
Eustatia and St. Croix, - - -								SCOTLAND.
	44988 2 19	8742 0 16	3899 1 14	43319 0 9	6089 0 22	69 1 9	15 1 16	

A. D.

1782 TOTALS of SUGAR, RUM, MELASSES, TOBACCO, INDIGO, RICE and COCHINEAL,
imported into and exported from England, for ten Years, ending at Christmas, 1782.

S U G A R.

<i>Imported into England.</i>				<i>Exported from England.</i>								
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>			<i>LONDON.</i>			<i>OUT-PORTS.</i>			<i>TOTALS.</i>		
	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
1773	1,731,664	3	1	59,017	0	3	86,448	0	11	145,465	0	14
1774	1,962,403	1	0	103,461	2	21	81,412	3	21	181,874	2	14
1775	1,940,069	0	2	192,715	1	21	106,134	2	24	298,850	0	17
1776	1,669,066	0	4	52,962	3	21	138,609	2	1	191,572	1	22
1777	1,335,421	0	20	34,025	0	4	94,266	2	6	128,291	2	10
1778	1,403,995	1	13	12,560	3	8	68,203	1	2	80,764	0	10
1779	1,441,945	3	1	7,462	3	15	55,685	1	2	63,148	0	17
1780	1,318,515	9	9	14,627	2	24	82,507	0	17	97,134	3	13
1781	1,026,177	0	14	39,000	2	0	95,036	3	8	134,037	1	8
1782	1,315,025	3	17	6,665	0	17	78,511	2	10	85,176	2	27

R U M.

<i>Imported into England.</i>		<i>Exported from England.</i>			
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>LONDON.</i>	<i>OUT-PORTS.</i>	<i>TOTALS.</i>	
	<i>Gallons.</i>			<i>Gallons.</i>	
1773	2,138,631	464,591	364,212	828,803	
1774	1,705,338	309,020	329,363	638,383	
1775	2,309,977	166,515	523,786	690,301	
1776	3,346,759	224,267	241,410	465,677	
1777	2,069,644	248,216	574,064	822,280	
1778	2,457,084	139,521	486,869	626,390	
1779	2,161,878	251,004	481,654	732,658	
1780	1,621,148	483,355	337,174	820,529	
1781	1,229,987	116,373	45,859	162,232	
1782	1,587,981	117,232	274,913	392,145	

M E L A S S E S.

<i>Imported into England.</i>					<i>Exported from England.</i>											
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>				<i>LONDON.</i>				<i>OUT-PORTS.</i>				<i>TOTALS.</i>			
					<i>Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>				<i>Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>				<i>Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>			
1773	61	6	2	20	7	6	3	24	0	0	0	0	7	6	3	24
1774	27	2	1	17	26	8	2	6	0	0	0	0	26	8	2	6
1775	74	5	2	11	0	0	0	0	7	11	2	21	7	11	2	21
1776	256	13	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15	0	0
1777	511	9	1	24	29	9	2	12	61	1	2	2	90	11	0	14
1778	637	15	1	27	27	8	0	24	145	10	2	4	172	18	3	0
1779	59	14	0	21	9	4	0	24	13	11	3	10	22	16	0	6
1780	28	16	1	14	0	10	0	24	4	17	1	8	5	7	2	4
1781	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1782	12	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TOBACCO.

A. D.

1782

T O B A C C O.

*Imported into England.**Exported from England.*

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Pounds Wt.</i>	<i>LONDON. Pounds Wt.</i>	<i>OUT-PORTS. Pounds Wt.</i>	<i>TOTALS. Pounds Wt.</i>
1773 Not Prize, Prize,	55,928,957 0 0	35,248,119 0 0	15,138,806 0 0	50,386,925 0 0
Total,	55,928,957	35,248,119	15,138,806	50,386,925
1774 Not Prize, Prize,	56,048,393 0 0	29,125,332 0 0	15,694,519 0 0	44,819,851 0 0
Total,	56,048,393	29,125,332	15,695,519	44,819,851
1775 Not Prize, Prize,	55,965,463 0 0	33,769,986 0 0	10,110,879 0 0	43,880,865 0 0
Total,	55,965,463	33,769,986	10,110,879	43,880,865
1776 Not Prize, Prize,	7,275,037 0 0	13,729,926 0 0	2,791,486 0 0	16,521,412 0 0
Total,	7,275,037	13,729,926	2,791,486	16,521,412
1777 Not Prize, Prize,	233,722 1,912,329	1,996,960 332,512	575,934 0 0	2,572,894 332,512
Total,	2,146,051	2,329,472	575,934	2,905,406
1778 Not Prize, Prize,	655,124 8,422,029	609,481 325,839	762,412 360,443	1,381,893 686,282
Total,	9,077,153	935,320	1,122,855	2,068,175
1779 Not Prize, Prize,	4,365,115 9,652,316	458,856 1,148,825	534,041 1,562,714	992,897 2,711,539
Total,	14,017,431	1,607,681	2,096,755	3,704,436
1780 Not Prize, Prize,	7,354,405 4,944,767	402,269 502,183	1,341,276 577,277	1,743,545 1,079,460
Total,	12,299,172	904,452	1,918,553	2,823,005
1781 Not Prize, Prize,	5,131,639 6,255,086	867,579 1,204,959	1,331,929 546,348	2,199,508 1,751,307
Total,	11,386,725	2,072,538	1,878,277	3,950,815
1782 Not Prize, Prize,	4,414,840 2,788,422	557,967 612,752	1,161,022 197,405	1,718,989 810,157
Total,	7,203,262	1,170,719	1,358,427	2,529,146

R I C E.

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A. D.
1782

AN HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

R I C E.

<i>Imported into England.</i>				<i>Exported from England.</i>							
				LONDON.				OUT-PORTS.			
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	TOTALS. <i>Cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>
1773	457,122	1	23	73,933	2	5		287,401	1	13	361,334 3 18
1774	425,359	3	20	67,536	0	18		236,651	2	8	304,187 2 26
1775	577,149	0	22	59,782	1	1		323,698	0	18	383,480 1 19
1776	6,436	0	27	36,420	0	8		6,682	3	15	43,102 3 23
1777	13,016	1	20	20,047	1	25		5,477	1	6	25,524 3 3
1778	11,431	0	3	5,049	2	21		4,861	2	22	9,911 1 15
1779	65	0	14	576	2	5		1,018	1	0	1,594 3 5
1780	822	3	14	721	3	6		204	0	16	925 3 22
1781	40,146	2	12	15,055	0	4		5,696	2	19	20,751 2 23
1782	2,716	2	2	4,294	3	2		1,063	0	6	5,357 3 8

I N D I G O.

<i>Imported into England.</i>			<i>Exported from England.</i>					
			LONDON.			OUT-PORTS.		
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Pounds Wt.</i>		<i>Pounds Wt.</i>			<i>Pounds Wt.</i>		
1773	1,518,552	—	596,391			8,507		
1774	1,917,055	—	640,510			7,118		
1775	2,454,811	—	611,025			13,745		
1776	785,671	—	448,377			6,654		
1777	818,458	—	269,687			14,169		
1778	756,798	—	151,870			19,205		
1779	733,730	—	222,538			58,108		
1780	511,549	—	238,306			84,081		
1781	1,032,610	—	593,751			72,459		
1782	569,443	—	141,214			41,148		

C O C H I N E A L.

<i>Imported into England.</i>			<i>Exported from England.</i>					
			LONDON.			OUT-PORTS.		
<i>Years.</i>	<i>Pounds Wt.</i>		<i>Pounds Wt.</i>			<i>Pounds Wt.</i>		
1773	169,245	—	44,093			60		
1774	238,415	—	44,695			0		
1775	198,053	—	59,948			188		
1776	211,147	—	37,200			405		
1777	194,159	—	18,888			395		
1778	130,255	—	21,913			2,047		
1779	100,891	—	8,780			4,742		
1780	99,057	—	8,744			3,758		
1781	124,566	—	12,713			5,307		
1782	104,216	—	10,445			4,220		

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1782 An Account of all RICE, INDIGO, COCHINEAL, TOBACCO, SUGARS, MELASSES and RUM imported into Scotland for ten Years, ending at Christmas, 1782.

YEARS.	RICE.			INDIGO. lb.	COCHI- NEAL.			TOBACCO.		SUGARS.			MELASSES.		R U M. gallons.	
	cwt.	qrs.	lb.		cwt.	qrs.	lb.	MANUFAC- TURED.	UNMANUFAC- TURED.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.	cwt.	qrs.		
								lb.	lb.							
1773	11,842	2	6	2,924	0	0	0	0	44,543,050	70,287	2	21	12	1	20	143,655 ^I ₂
1774	241	2	24	6,690	0	0	0	30	41,348,295	66,157	0	10	12	1	29	183,602
1775	589	1	24	4,371	1	0	0	0	45,863,154	81,000	2	21	0	0	0	188,153 ^I ₂
1776	0	0	0	5,139	0	0	0	100	7,423,363	57,135	3	8	22	2	2	268,058
1777	94	3	4	1,523	0	0	0	267	294,896	80,253	3	4	253	0	0	200,084 ^I ₂
1778	1,596	0	0	22,156	0	0	0	6	2,884,374	117,285	2	4	545	1	1	511,820
1779	31	1	23	28,247	0	1	0	12	3,138,464	97,481	0	12	2,939	0	3	194,352
1780	220	1	4	6,318	0	0	17 ^I ₂	157	5,125,638	77,041	3	10	803	1	22	145,625 ^I ₂
1781	2,682	3	13	16,042	0	1	2	100	1,952,243	58,379	1	11	0	0	0	144,521 ^I ₂
1782	0	0	0	3,992	0	1	26	175	2,624,807	57,487	3	18	0	0	0	150,743 ^I ₂

An Account of all RICE, INDIGO, COCHINEAL, TOBACCO, SUGARS, MELASSES and RUM exported from Scotland for ten Years, ending at Christmas, 1782.

YEARS.	RICE.			INDIGO.	COCHINEAL.	TOBACCO.		SUGARS.				MELAS- SES.	RUM.				
	cwt.	qrs.	lb.			lb.	lb.	REFINED.		R A W.							
								MANUFAC- TURED.	UNMANUFAC- TURED.	cwt.	qrs.			lb.	cwt.	qrs.	lb.
1773	10,541	3	16	0	0	41,783	46,347,735	1,235	1	18	55,438	0	7	0	0	0	72,338 $\frac{1}{2}$
1774	73	0	0	18	0	62,742	33,794,322	1,576	2	8	38,911	3	19	0	0	0	50,745
1775	5	0	0	0	0	95,352	30,228,949	1,354	3	24	46,178	1	0	3	0	7	151,041
1776	0	0	0	0	0	234,216	23,467,162	1,742	2	4	30,087	2	7	40	1	25	48,575 $\frac{1}{2}$
1777	1,244	3	7	672	0	109,009	5,406,668	4,343	1	12	34,899	2	3	215	2	5	130,296
1778	1,413	2	1	245	0	77,986	2,296,622	2,488	1	2	63,056	2	3	96	2	0	186,598 $\frac{1}{2}$
1779	3	3	2	56	0	128,923	2,339,649	1,456	0	2	48,634	1	2	651	0	3	409,133
1780	0	0	0	696	0	102,304	3,024,867	2,653	3	19	27,045	0	1	569	0	26	56,951
1781	860	2	15	2,680	0	213,322	1,574,735	1,308	2	9	37,719	0	11	840	3	20	63,243
1782	664	1	27	0	0	233,458	700,837	878	3	2	8,060	1	24	216	3	12	138,438 $\frac{1}{2}$

The apparent minuteness of the foregoing tables, will, we hope, be sufficiently attoned for by their usefulness. By detail only, in such matters, we arrive at certitude. It is easy to perceive the increase or decline of a general commerce, but we can only discover the causes producing these effects, by examining the component parts,—by observing their various movements, their advantages and drawbacks. It is this that gratifies the intelligent and reflecting mind. One thing must particularly strike us in perusing these tables, and that is, the astonishing manner in which the commercial national spirit maintained its level, and rose above the pressure of the most formidable and extended maritime war this country ever experienced. This is eminently observable in our West India trade, against which the naval force of the enemy was principally directed; for, excepting the calamitous year of 1781, when those fortuitous causes, which frequently blast the most vigorous exertions of human industry, occasioned a considerable failure in our imports of sugar and rum, no very striking diminution is to be perceived during the course of the war; at least, not in any manner proportionate to

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1782 what the exigencies of the times might warrant. Our American trade, however, during the same period, presents us a different aspect, where the business of war put, in a great measure, an entire stop to that of commerce: such casual interruptions are sometimes indeed unavoidable, but they should be obviated as soon as possible; for no war, even the most fortunate, if continued for a length of time, can be profitable to a commercial people.

Having now arrived at that period, when commerce is once more about to return to its customary channels, we shall again resume our account of the national exports and imports. It would have afforded but little satisfaction to have pursued this subject, amidst those distractions and embarrassments inseparable from a state of hostility, since nothing decisive could be fairly deduced therefrom; for, in such a state, things being thrown out of their natural order, many of our trading intercourses entirely cut off, and all, in a greater or lesser degree, obstructed, no just estimate can be formed of the aggregate balance, or what share our usual trade with particular countries has in raising or depressing it. For the gratification, however, of those who may wish to know the situation of our commercial affairs at this trying period, we have subjoined an account of them during the last two years of the war; where, even there, they will find cause for exultation: since, so far from falling into that annihilation which was predicted by some visionary speculists, it still maintained a most respectable footing, and fully evinced the impracticability of suddenly demolishing a vast commercial structure, when once founded in wisdom, directed by judgment, and supported with vigour and the genuine spirit of enterprize.

An Account of the VALUE of all GOODS, WARES and MERCHANDIZE, exported from, and imported into SCOTLAND, from CHRISTMAS, 1780, to CHRISTMAS, 1782, distinguishing each Year and Place.

P L A C E S.	From CHRISTMAS 1780, to CHRISTMAS 1781.			From CHRISTMAS 1781, to CHRISTMAS 1782.		
	Value of Goods, &c. EXPORTED.		Value of Goods, &c. IMPORTED.	Value of Goods, &c. EXPORTED.		Value of Goods, &c. IMPORTED.
	£.	s. d.		£.	s. d.	
America, —	183,620	10 2	49,826 19 2	73,311 4 —	110,637 10 5	
West Indies, —	141,220	9 6	169,375 11 1	231,762 17 10	132,791 18 5	
Denmark and Norway, —	35,011 11 1		28,181 19 —	34,575 11 5	31,640 10 7	
Flanders, —	56,452 6 10		45,803 19 4	65,559 8 2	92,300 4 2	
Germany, —	26,458 11 3		26,659 2 6	19,417 17 2	13,636 15 8	
Greenland, —	—		8,291 13 3	—	1,420 16 —	
Guernsey, —	17,285 5 —		5,197 10 8	1,782 — 2	5,940 14 5	
Holland, —	—		13,563 8 5	—	6,522 6 8	
Iceland, —	—		465 1 3	—	37 10 —	
Jersey, —	—		245 18 10	—	1,230 6 8	
Ireland, —	305,167 11 11		195,685 13 —	201,182 19 10	149,889 19 4	
Isle of Man, —	1,818 18 6		802 6 —	176 19 1	253 4 —	
Italy, —	—		—	975 — —	—	
Poland, —	161 6 1		7,389 19 —	43 11 —	12,695 13 9	
Portugal, —	678 14 9		14,614 10 —	2,800 15 10	8,657 13 1	
Prussia, —	82 5 4		9,648 11 9	3,325 2 2	14,863 5 10	
Russia, —	5,915 5 —		209,325 1 8	11,165 8 8	203,804 14 8	
Sweden, —	4,793 13 7		18,793 7 11	7,629 18 6	22,698 12 —	
Total,	763,109 9 —		803,870 12 10	653,703 13 10	809,021 15 8	IMPORTS

A. D.

1782 IMPORTS and EXPORTS, for the YEARS 1781, and 1782, ending at CHRISTMAS.

COUNTRIES.	1781.						1782.					
	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.			IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Africa, —	36,386	8	10	312,822	7	10	68,475	16	5	351,734	18	5
Canaries, —	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,341	12	11	—	—	—
Denmark and Norway, —	94,639	1	10	172,012	19	9	73,038	9	2	164,732	2	4
East Country, —	447,845	8	6	86,848	19	3	332,738	7	2	130,524	7	9
East India, —	2,526,339	2	2	595,131	18	2	626,319	8	5	1,467,844	10	11
Flanders, —	1,204,860	4	5	1,968,383	11	3	1,083,092	6	5	2,069,983	7	1
France, —	1,909	14	4	873	12	—	4,783	13	6	8,153	11	2
Germany, —	617,185	6	5	1,000,078	11	2	524,882	14	2	1,549,745	11	8
Greenland, —	28,255	13	1	—	—	—	39,536	1	2	91	4	—
Holland, —	100,048	18	11	313,487	7	10	2,485	12	7	90,933	17	4
Ireland, —	1,433,835	15	2	1,769,589	19	1	1,348,510	11	10	1,715,889	—	7
Isle of Man, —	11,204	17	10	19,418	19	9	15,644	9	6	28,059	12	8
Italy, —	133,645	18	—	262,760	7	4	177,698	8	8	488,163	10	4
Madeira, —	2,433	8	2	24,000	9	10	3,867	7	6	50,256	13	2
Portugal, —	355,723	3	—	523,493	7	3	280,654	4	6	687,324	11	10
Russia, —	1,206,806	18	7	137,967	6	7	1,185,844	14	4	196,577	9	10
Spain, —	114,492	7	2	—	—	—	144,541	12	5	—	—	—
Gibraltar, —	994	2	4	3,550	5	6	21	9	2	4,046	19	4
Streights, —	—	—	—	6,165	10	—	344	3	4	9,451	10	—
Sweden, —	212,414	19	11	62,510	8	10	163,219	7	11	56,083	2	7
Turkey, —	24,180	2	6	1,562	19	10	41,325	10	7	4,148	3	—
Venice, —	27,035	12	3	17,819	16	3	53,540	16	4	42,113	4	—
Alderney, —	7	—	—	1,733	14	1	38	10	—	2,148	4	5
Guernsey, —	80,333	12	1	55,077	8	8	56,298	6	—	61,693	19	1
Jersey, —	14,535	15	1	18,987	11	2	13,347	14	9	23,966	18	4
Canada, —	48,547	17	11	422,807	13	6	144,291	7	10	496,579	8	3
Carolina, —	94,368	8	2	330,847	2	10	14,182	4	2	69,742	15	8
Florida, —	30,715	5	1	16,446	9	1	30,935	13	6	4,707	—	11
Georgia, —	506	5	—	14,058	19	—	6,804	1	10	339	15	—
Hudson's Bay, —	14,763	17	—	6,228	3	5	6,801	18	8	8,188	8	11
New England, —	2,068	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland, —	51,593	18	10	74,091	4	3	68,825	4	10	125,388	16	5
New Providence, —	3,553	16	2	1,776	15	10	1,034	14	4	—	—	—
New York, —	2,904	18	5	502,977	5	8	7,690	3	2	186,242	4	5
Nova Scotia, —	4,023	19	6	32,474	10	1	2,943	5	10	71,505	5	2
Anguilla, —	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,239	18	6	5,297	7	2
Antigua, —	152,445	4	2	65,223	11	2	231,019	5	5	131,438	9	2
Barbadoes, —	81,117	13	11	152,681	6	10	176,999	2	5	201,314	13	5
Bermudas, —	2,673	14	9	2,346	3	6	880	15	11	16,649	9	8
Jamaica, —	869,751	14	10	442,695	5	2	1,157,121	—	11	670,669	7	7
Montserrat, —	56,402	10	8	14,707	12	6	47,695	14	9	428	14	10
Nevis, —	83,513	8	2	22,634	11	2	47,386	16	9	4,387	2	5
St. Croix, —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	850	—	—
St. Eustatia, —	5,159	17	1	453	8	5	7,637	18	7	—	—	—
St. Kitt's, —	385,527	17	10	133,312	15	—	248,916	—	4	23,304	17	8
St. Lucia, —	103,565	19	—	89,394	3	—	258,141	16	11	139,853	6	9
St. Martin's, —	28,010	4	3	4,127	15	3	40,580	16	1	442	7	5
St. Thomas, —	—	—	—	26,606	12	11	3,952	10	5	222,632	10	7
Tobago, —	29,330	2	8	14,442	17	10	4,109	7	10	1,893	5	10
Tortola, —	70,960	—	10	33,438	—	9	161,388	1	2	92,720	12	2
Southern Fishery, —	4,151	—	—	—	—	—	94	5	—	—	—	—
Demerara, —	20,232	19	6	4,473	13	6	47,913	1	4	—	—	—
New Orleans, —	—	—	—	98	17	4	4,426	11	10	14,318	3	1
Prize Goods, —	1,087,928	18	8	806,564	1	5	521,007	3	1	663,089	7	9
Total,	11,918,991	9	—	10,569,186	10	10	9,532,606	19	10	12,355,750	0	1
Excess of imports,	—	—	—	1,349,804	18	2	Excess of exports,	—	—	2,823,143	0	3

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	3½ p. ct. B. 1758	4 per cent. consol.	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Bonds.	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	Nav Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Omni. Pre.
January,	{ 111½ 110¾	{ 56⅞ 56⅝	{ 55⅞ 55⅝	{ 55⅞ —	{ 71½ 71⅞	{ 16⅞ 16	{ 12⅞ 12	{ 135 134¾	{ 12 11	{ 56¾ 56¼	{ 55½ 55⅝	{ 11 10⅞	{ 5 4	{ 6½ 5
February,	{ — 109⅞	{ — 55	{ — 54¼	{ — 54⅞	{ — 70¼	{ — 15⅞	{ — 11⅞	{ — 131¼	{ — par.	{ — —	{ — 52½	{ — —	{ — 1	{ — —
March,	{ 113½ 111¼	{ 55¾ 55½	{ 55½ —	{ 55⅞ 54¼	{ 71½ —	{ 16⅞ 16	{ 12⅞ 12¼	{ 136½ 134½	{ 10s. pr. par.	{ 55¾ —	{ 55¼ 54½	{ 11⅞ 11½	{ 1 pr. 6 dif.	{ 8½ 5¼
April,	{ 118 —	{ 57½ —	{ 60 55½	{ 58¾ 55⅞	{ 75⅞ 71⅞	{ 17⅞ 16⅞	{ 13⅞ 12½	{ 139 135½	{ 11 1	{ 57¾ 55¾	{ 58⅝ 55½	{ 12 10½	{ 6 2 dif.	{ 15 8
May,	{ 115 114	{ 59⅞ 58¼	{ — 57½	{ — —	{ 73½ 72⅞	{ 17½ 17¼	{ — 13	{ 139¼ 138¼	{ 15 7	{ 58½ 57⅞	{ 59⅞ 58⅞	{ 11⅞ 10¼	{ — —	{ — —
June,	{ 116¼ 114¾	{ 59½ 58¾	{ 61⅝ 59⅞	{ — —	{ 74⅝ 73¼	{ — —	{ — —	{ — 137½	{ — 3	{ 58⅞ 58¾	{ 59⅞ —	{ — 10¾	{ — —	{ — —
July,	{ 115¾ 113¼	{ 59⅞ 57⅞	{ 60⅞ 58⅞	{ — —	{ 73¾ 72⅞	{ — 17	{ — —	{ 137½ 128	{ — —	{ — 57	{ — —	{ 11½ 11	{ — 3s. pr.	{ — —
August,	{ 115 113¾	{ 58¼ —	{ 57⅞ 56⅞	{ — —	{ 73 72	{ 16⅞ 16½	{ 12⅞ 12⅞	{ 129¾ 127¾	{ 4 1	{ 57¼ 56¾	{ 57¼ 56¾	{ 11⅞ 10⅞	{ 7 4	{ — —
Septemb.	{ 117¼ 114¼	{ 57¾ —	{ 58⅞ 56½	{ — —	{ 74⅞ 72⅞	{ 17¼ 16¾	{ 12⅞ 12½	{ 130¾ —	{ 2 par.	{ 58⅞ 57¾	{ 57⅞ 56½	{ 10⅞ 10	{ 5 3	{ — —
October,	{ 117⅞ 113½	{ 58 57¾	{ 58¾ 57¾	{ — —	{ 74⅞ 72⅞	{ 17¼ 17⅞	{ — —	{ 136½ 129	{ — —	{ — 56⅞	{ — 57½	{ 11⅞ 10⅞	{ 5 1	{ — —
Novemb.	{ 117½ 113½	{ 60⅞ 56¾	{ 61⅞ 58	{ — —	{ — 71½	{ 18 17	{ 13½ 12⅞	{ 135¼ 131¼	{ 12 2	{ 57⅞ 60	{ 60⅞ 67⅞	{ 12½ 11⅞	{ 14 2	{ — —
Decemb.	{ 124 120	{ 66¼ 60⅞	{ 66 61¾	{ — —	{ 80¼ 73⅞	{ 19⅞ 17⅞	{ 13⅞ 13¼	{ 139⅞ 133	{ 18 14	{ 64½ 60	{ 64½ 61	{ 13⅞ 12	{ 18 14	{ — —

The following bills relating to trade and commerce, received the royal assent between the 27th of November, 1781, and the 11th of July, 1782 :—

A bill for further continuing an act made in the 17th year of his present Majesty, entitled, “ An Act to empower his Majesty to secure and detain persons charged with or suspected of the crime of high treason, committed in any of his Majesty’s colonies or plantations in America, or on the high seas, or for the crime of piracy.”

For the better supply of mariners and seamen to serve in his Majesty’s ships of war, and on board merchant-ships, &c.

For allowing further time to negotiate by indorsement the bonds issued in pursuance of an act of the 14th of his present Majesty, entitled, “ An act for more effectually carrying into execution certain proposals made by the most noble Henry Duke of Buccleugh, the most noble Charles Duke of Queensberry and Dover, and others, for redeeming the annuities granted by the company of the bank of Ayr, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, known under the firm of Douglas, Heron, and Company.”

For prohibiting the ransoming of ships or vessels captured by his Majesty’s subjects, and of the merchandize or goods on board such ships or vessels.

For allowing the importation of goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, and Montserrat, into any ports of his Majesty’s dominions in Europe or America, upon payment of the British plantation duties.

For

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For charging a stamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other notes payable otherwise than upon demand.

For charging a duty on persons whose property shall be insured against loss by fire.

For licensing lottery office keepers, and regulating the sale of lottery tickets.

For discharging and indemnifying the East India Company from all damages, interests, and losses, for default in certain payments due to the public, on such payments being made at a future stipulated time; and to enable the said Company to continue a dividend of eight per cent. to the proprietors of their stock, for the present year.

For enabling his Majesty to conclude a peace or truce with certain colonies in North America, therein mentioned.

For preventing, in future, the granting any patent office to be exercised in any colony or plantation now, or at any time hereafter, belonging to the crown of Great Britain, for any longer term than during such time as the grantee thereof, or person appointed thereto, shall discharge the duty thereof in person, and behave well therein.

For the better relief and employment of the poor.

For restraining any person concerned in any contract, commission, or agreement made for the public service, from being elected, or sitting and voting as a member of the House of Commons.

Of this act, we shall give the following abstract:—

“ Any member accepting a contract, or continuing to hold any contract, after the commencement of the next session, his seat shall be void.

“ Not to extend to incorporated companies; nor to contracts already made, for one year; nor to contracts by descent, till after twelve months possession.

“ Members holding contracts, may be discharged therefrom, on giving a year's notice.

“ Any person actually possessed of a patent for a new invention, or a prolongation thereof by act of Parliament, and having contracted with government concerning the object of the said patent before the passing of this act, shall give notice of his intention to dissolve the said contract, and the same shall be null and void from the time of giving such notice.

“ If any person hereby disqualified shall be elected, such election shall be void.

“ Disqualified persons who shall sit in the House of Commons after this session, shall forfeit 500*l.* for each day.

“ No member of the House of Commons to have any share in public contracts: and a heavy penalty to be levied on those admitting them to such a participation.

“ Actions against defaulters to be commenced within twelve months.”

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For 100,000 seamen, including 21,305 marines,	4,940,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	409,766	12	9
Towards building and repairing ships of war,	953,519	0	0
Towards discharging the debt of the navy,	1,500,000	0	0
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	696,001	13	5
Ditto for the sea service,	260,000	0	0
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1781,	899,723	15	7
For compensation to proprietors of lands near Plymouth,	16,364	10	5
For 49,455 land-forces, including 4,175 invalids, &c.	1,242,835	2	3

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Carried over, 10,918,210 14 5

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	10,918,210	14	5
For maintaining forces and garrisons out of the kingdom,	1,315,523	5	10
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c. — —	43,840	6	0
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	677,497	15	10
For the cloathing of the militia, — — —	100,594	17	1
For additional militia companies, &c. in 1781, —	542	14	1
For additional to three regiments of foot, and for Major General Stuart Douglas, — — — —	1,675	10	4
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	77,595	19	2
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c. — —	574	18	4
For one regiment of light dragoons, and two regiments of foot, from September 24, to December 24, 1781, — —	21,329	18	8
For one ditto, ditto, and seven battalions and a detachment of foot in the East Indies, 1782, — — —	36,280	10	8
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c. —	92,881	17	1
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy, —	367,203	9	10
To make good the deficiencies in sums voted for ditto in 1781,	15,499	17	5
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers, — —	93,947	15	8
For ditto of 2,094 men of the troops of Hanau and subsidy, —	61,108	11	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
For five Hanoverian battalions serving at Gibraltar, &c. —	56,074	19	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and subsidy, —	17,498	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbst, including artillery, —	23,818	11	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1781, — —	4,942	19	0
For ditto of 1,559 troops of the Margrave of Anspach, &c. —	43,665	12	3
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1781, — —	3,282	12	5
For provisions for the foreign troops serving in America, —	55,469	0	0
For artillery for the foreign troops, — —	27,683	14	0
For extra army expences, &c. not provided for by Parliament,	3,280,053	11	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
To the Levant Company, — — —	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,	5,830	1	6
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,	15,000	0	0
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerset House, —	25,000	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate, — — —	10,000	0	0
For the British Museum, — — — —	3,000	0	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c. —	73,704	8	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,	8,908	9	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballast on the Thames, — — — —	14,719	4	0
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John, —	3,000	0	0
Ditto of Georgia, — — — —	2,536	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia, — — — —	5,021	10	5
Carried forward,	17,508,516	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	17,508,516	18	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of East Florida,	3,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida, for 1779,	2,700	0	0
For the commissioners of public accounts,	19,000	0	0
For discharging the prizes of the lottery of 1781,	405,000	0	0
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills,	1,900,000	0	0
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c.	1,500,000	0	0
For ditto, on the vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Deficiency in the land-tax,	256,964	8	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto in the malt-tax,	163,035	11	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of coinage duty,	8,113	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of annuity fund, 1758,	35,149	8	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778,	183,380	3	8
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779,	102,806	9	0
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780,	153,193	8	11
Ditto of ways and means, 1781,	24,467	5	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
	23,266,277	11	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
For military services, on the vote of credit,	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,	24,266,277	11	1 $\frac{1}{4}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.				£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	—	—	—	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	—	—	—	2,000,000	0	0
Loan,	—	—	—	13,500,000	0	0
Lottery,	—	—	—	405,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	—	—	—	1,500,000	0	0
By ditto,	—	—	—	1,900,000	0	0
By certain balances,	—	—	—	23,645	2	7
Disposeable money in the Exchequer,	—	—	—	10,251	18	11
By certain surplusses of the sinking fund,	—	—	—	870,760	11	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
By future produce of the sinking fund,	—	—	—	2,284,715	10	8
				23,244,373	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Vote of credit,	—	—	—	1,000,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	—	—	—	24,244,373	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Total amount of Supplies granted,				24,266,277	11	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total amount of Ways and Means,				24,244,373	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Deficiency of Ways and Means,	—	—	—	21,904	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
The national debt, up to 1782, amounted to	—	—	—	£. 190,606,000	0	0
The annual interest of which was,	—	—	—	7,605,125	0	0

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The following additional duties and new taxes were imposed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
An additional duty of 1s. per barrel on all small beer above 10s. per barrel, and withholding the 6d. drawback on malt,	42,000	0	0
Ditto of 4d. per pound on tobacco,	141,333	0	0
Ditto of one farthing per pound on salt,	60,000	0	0
Ditto on medicinal ditto, 2s. the hundred-weight,	5,000	0	0
Ditto of 5 per cent. on all excise and customs,	235,000	0	0
Spanish and Flemish brandies to pay the same duties as French,	5,000	0	0
A new tax of 1s. 6d. on every 100l. insured,	100,000	0	0
Ditto of a stamp duty of 3d. on every inland bill of exchange under 50l. and 6d. on ditto above 50l.	50,000	0	0
Ditto of one farthing per ton per mile on inland water carriage,	163,410	0	0
Ditto of 3d. per ton on coasting ditto, (coals excepted)	12,000	0	0
Total of new taxes, &c.	£. 813,743	0	0
Interest of the additional national debt of this year,	793,125	0	0
Excess of new taxes,	20,618	0	0

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	8,808	Buried, males	9,131
— females	8,293	— females	8,787
	17,101		17,918

1783 This year opens with an event of the utmost importance to the British empire, as well as to the different powers engaged in hostilities against it. On the 20th of January, preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and France were signed at Versailles by Mr. Fitzherbert and the Count de Vergennes: similar articles were also signed at the same place, and on the same day, between Great Britain and Spain, by Mr. Fitzherbert and the Count D'Aranda.—Provisional articles of peace with the United States of America, (to take place when a treaty was concluded) had been already signed at Paris on the 30th of November in the last year, by Mr. Oswald and the American commissioners, B. Franklin, J. Adams, J. Jay, and H. Laurens.—The preliminaries with Holland were not actually subscribed, but a cessation of hostilities with that republic was agreed upon.

In the treaty between Great Britain and France it was agreed, that the most efficacious measures should immediately be taken, by both parties, for putting an end to hostilities of every kind. Newfoundland was to remain with England as before the commencement of the war; and to prevent disputes about boundaries, it was accorded, that the French fishery should begin from Cape St. John, on the eastern side, and going round by the north, should have for its boundary Cape Ray on the western side. The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were ceded in full right to France. The French were to continue to fish in the Gulf of St. Laurence, conformably to the fifth article of the treaty of Paris. The King of Great Britain was to restore

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1783 restore to France the island of St. Lucia, and to cede and guarantee to her that of Tobago. The King of France was to surrender to Great Britain the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Kitt's, Nevis, and Montserrat. The river of Senegal and its dependencies, with the forts of Louis, Podor, Galam, Arguin and Portendic, were to be given to France; and the island of Goree was to be restored to it. Fort James and the river Gambia were guaranteed to his Britannic Majesty; and the gum trade was to remain in the same condition as before the commencement of hostilities:—the King of Great Britain was to restore to his Most Christian Majesty, all the establishments which belonged to him at the breaking out of the war on the coast of Orissa and in Bengal, with the liberty to surround Chandernagore with a ditch for draining the waters; and became engaged to secure to the subjects of France in that part of India, and on the coasts of Orissa, Coromandel and Malabar, a safe, free and independent trade, either as private traders, or under the direction of a company. Pondicherry, as well as Karical, was to be rendered back to France; and his Britannic Majesty was to give, as a dependency round Pondicherry, the two districts of Valanour and Bahrour; and, as a dependency round Karical, the four contiguous Macans. The French were again to enter into the possession of Mahe, and of the Comptoir at Surat. The allies of France and Great Britain were to be invited to accede to the present pacification; and the term of four months was to be allowed them for the purpose of making their decision. If they should be averse to peace, no assistance, on either side, was to be given to them. Great Britain renounced every claim with respect to Dunkirk. Commissioners were to be appointed respectively by the two nations to enquire into the state of their commerce, and to concert new arrangements of trade on the footing of reciprocity and mutual convenience. All conquests on either side, in any part of the world whatsoever, not mentioned or alluded to in the present treaty, were to be restored without difficulty, and without requiring compensation. It being necessary that there should be a fixed epoch for the restitutions and surrenders to be made by the contracting parties, it was determined that the King of Great Britain should order the evacuation of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, three months after the ratification of the preliminary treaty, and that, if possible, before the expiration of the same period, he should relinquish all connection with St. Lucia, in the West Indies, and Goree, in Africa. It was stipulated, in like manner, that his Britannic Majesty should, at the end of three months after the ratification of the treaty, or sooner, enter into the possession of the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Christopher's, Nevis, and Montserrat. France was to be put in possession of the towns and comptoirs which were to be restored to her in the East Indies, and of the territories which were to serve as dependencies round Pondicherry and Karical, six months after the ratification of the definitive treaty; and at the termination of the same term, she was to restore the towns and districts which her arms might have taken from the English or their allies in that quarter of the globe. The prisoners on each side were reciprocally to be surrendered, and without ransom, upon the ratification of the treaty, and on paying the debts they might have contracted during their captivity. Each crown was respectively to reimburse the sums which had been advanced for the maintenance of their prisoners, according to attested and authentic vouchers. With a view to prevent every dispute and complaint on account of prizes which might be taken by the ships of war belonging to either power, the following arrangement was agreed upon:—All vessels or effects captured in the Channel, and in the North Seas, after the space of twelve days, (to be computed from the ratification of the present preliminary articles) were to be restored on each side; one month to be allowed from
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1783 the Channel and the North Seas, as far as the Canary islands inclusively, or in the Mediterranean; two months from the Canary islands as far as the equator; and, lastly, five months, without exception, in all other parts of the world.

By the preliminary articles between Great Britain and Spain it was agreed, that his Catholic Majesty was to keep the island of Minorca, and was to retain West Florida. East Florida was to be ceded to him by the King of Great Britain. Eighteen months were to be allowed from the date of the ratification of the definitive treaty, to the subjects of the latter who had settled in the island of Minorca and in the two Floridas, to sell their estates, to recover their debts, and to transport their persons and effects, without being restrained on account of their religion, or on any other pretence whatsoever, except that of debts and prosecutions for crimes. His Britannic Majesty was, at the same time, to have the power to cause all the effects that might belong to him in East Florida to be carried away. The liberty of cutting logwood in a district, of which the boundaries were to be ascertained, without molestation or disturbance of any kind whatsoever, was permitted to Great Britain. The King of Spain was to restore the islands of Providence and the Bahamas, without exception, in the condition in which they were when conquered by his arms. All other conquests of territories and countries, upon either side, not included in the present articles, were to be mutually restored, without difficulty or compensation. The epoch for the restitutions to be made, the regulations for the release of prisoners, and for the cessation of captures, were exactly the same as those stipulated in the preliminary articles with France.

By the provisional articles agreed upon by the respective commissioners of Great Britain and the United States of America, his Britannic Majesty acknowledged them to be free, sovereign, and independent States. He consented to treat with them in that capacity; and, for himself, his heirs, and his successors, he relinquished all claims to the government of them, to their property and territorial rights. That no disputes might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the United States, it was declared, that they should be, "from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, to that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north,—from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the said Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Laurence,—from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north westernmost head of Connecticut river,—thence down along the middle of that river, to the 45th degree of north latitude,—from thence by a line due west on that latitude, until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cateraqui,—thence along the middle of the said river into the lake Ontario, through the middle of that lake, until it strikes the communication between the said lake and the lake Erie,—thence along the middle of that communication into lake Erie, through the middle of the said lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron,—thence along the middle of the said water communication,—thence through the middle of the said lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior,—thence through Lake Superior, northward of the isles Royal and Phillipeaux, to the Long Lake,—thence through the middle of the said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods,—thence through the said Lake to the most northern point of it; and from thence, in a due west course, to the river Mississippi,—thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude.—South, by a line to be drawn due east, from the determination of the line last-mentioned, in the latitude of 31 degrees north of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola,

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1783 or Catahouche,—thence along the middle thereof, to its junction with the river Flint,—thence strait to the head of St. Mary's River, and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean.—East, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy, to its source; and from its source, directly north to the said Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from those which fall into the river St. Laurence; comprehending all islands within 20 leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the said boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the other, shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia."

It was stipulated, that the people of the United States should continue to enjoy, without molestation, the right to take fish of every kind on the Grand Bank, and all other the Banks of Newfoundland; and that they should likewise exercise and continue the same privilege in the Gulf of St. Laurence, and at every other place in the sea; where the said inhabitants used heretofore to fish. The inhabitants of the United States were likewise to have liberty to take fish of every kind, on such part of the coast of Newfoundland, as British seamen shall resort to, but not to cure or dry them on that island. They were also to possess the privilege of fishing on the coasts, bays, and creeks of all the other dominions of his Britannic Majesty in America, and the Americans are to be permitted to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbours and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador. But it was agreed, that, after such places should be settled, this right could not be legally put in practice without the consent of the inhabitants and proprietors of the ground. It was accorded, that creditors on either side should meet with no impediment in the prosecution of their claims. It was contracted, that the Congress should earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective States, to provide for the restitution of all estates and properties which had been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and of the estates and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who had not borne arms against the United States. It was resolved, that persons of any other description should have free liberty to go to any part whatsoever of any of the Thirteen United States, and remain in it for twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to recover such of their estates, rights and properties, as may not have been confiscated; and it was concerted, that the Congress should earnestly recommend to the several States, a revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render them perfectly consistent, not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation, which, on the return of the blessings of peace, should universally prevail. It was understood, that no future confiscations should be made, nor prosecutions commenced against any person or body of men, on account of the part which he or they had taken in the present war; and that those who may be in confinement on such a charge, at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, should be immediately set at liberty. It was concluded, that there should be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the United States; that all hostilities by sea and land should immediately cease; and that prisoners, on both sides, should be set at liberty. It was determined, that his Britannic Majesty should expeditiously, and without committing destruction of any sort, withdraw all his armies, garrisons and fleets, from every port, place and harbour of the United States. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the Ocean, was to remain ever free and open to the subjects of Great Britain, and to the citizens of the United States. In fine, it was agreed in the

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event, that if any place or territory belonging to Great Britain, or to the United States, should be conquered by the arms of either before the arrival of the provisional articles in America, it should be restored without compensation or difficulty.

It was not with equal success that the negotiations for peace were carried on with Holland. In a memorial to Mr. Fitzherbert, presented to him at Paris, by the plenipotentiaries of the States General, intimations of advantages were made which could not be granted. In consequence of which, he was instructed to reply, that as the Republic discovered so little inclination to renew those ties which, in former times, had connected them so closely with Great Britain, it was proper, at least, that they should conduct themselves in all commercial affairs which might take place between Great Britain and them, purely and simply by the general principles of the rights of mankind; and to this declaration, he added, that as soon as the nations engaged in the present war, should begin to form those commercial arrangements, which the new engagements that should subsist between them should render necessary, his Britannic Majesty would be ready to contract with them such commercial treaties as might correspond with the situation of the two States, and with their respective interests. They were assured, that the King of Great Britain was willing, from his moderation, to restore to their High Mightinesses, all the possessions which had been taken from them by his arms, except Trincomale, in the island of Ceylon, with its dependencies. With regard to an indemnification of the losses which the United Provinces had experienced during the war, they were informed, that such a pretension would never be admitted, as being equally repugnant to reason and equity: but they were admonished at the same time, that the King of Great Britain consented, without any reluctance, that the division of prizes taken by his subjects previous to the rupture, should be submitted to the courts of justice of the British Admiralty, agreeable to the established rules of nations.

To these propositions, the plenipotentiaries of the States General expressed their dissent. They did not understand what the court of London meant by "the general principles of the rights of mankind." If by this expression those principles were signified which are drawn from the primitive rights of nations, which render the navigation and conveyance of all kinds of merchandize, without distinction, entirely free, without any obstruction whatever, excepting warlike stores, they were persuaded that their High Mightinesses would very readily admit it as the basis of a negotiation; and they expressed themselves to be ready to engage in arranging, on this principle, the definitive treaty of peace, or a treaty of private commerce, as soon as the nations concerned in the present war should determine to enter into commercial arrangements. They could not, however, reconcile the detention of Trincomale, with what was termed the moderation of his Britannic Majesty; and it was their opinion, that their High Mightinesses would not submit to authorize an article of that kind. As to an indemnification of losses, they avoided finally to enter upon it, till it should appear that the court of London was disposed to approach to equitable heads of accommodation and alliance.

On the 27th of January, copies of the preliminary articles of peace between Great Britain and France, and Great Britain and Spain, and of the provisional treaty with the United States of America, were laid before both Houses of Parliament; and the 17th day of February following was appointed for taking them into consideration. Without entering into the particulars of the important debates which took place on this occasion, we shall give a candid statement of the arguments employed on both sides of the question.

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1783 It was asserted on the part of administration, that the critical situation of the finances of this country demanded an immediate termination of the war. The national debt was now risen to the enormous sum of 250,000,000*l.* for which an interest of near 9,500,000*l.* was annually paid. This interest, together with the civil list and peace establishment, would swell the national expences to little less than 15,000,000*l.* per annum; and as the amount of the enormous load of taxes, under which the landed interest was sinking, did not exceed 12,700,000*l.* there remained an annual sum of 2,300,000*l.* to be raised by fresh burthens.

It might indeed be urged, that the other belligerent powers felt an equal degree of distress; but allowing the truth of that assertion, the difference of government operated so much in their favour, that granting they would incur great distresses by prosecuting the war, we should experience much greater, were a public bankruptcy to ensue. The popular maxims of our constitution would throw us into universal confusion, while the habitual submission to the supreme authority of the State, (Holland excepted) would, in the midst of their hardships and sufferings, keep them, in a great degree, in tranquillity and order.

To these assertions it was replied, that the state of our finances was as well known to the enemy as ourselves; and that it arose from their firm belief of our being in a situation to continue the contest, that they manifested the disposition they had to enter into a negotiation for peace with us.

The next point of consideration, was the home defence of the kingdom. The deficiencies in the various corps of regulars and militia were described to be so great, that not less than 30,000 men would be wanted to supply them. The country, it was insisted, was so exhausted, that few or no recruits could be procured, and that even if men were obtained in Germany, it would be a matter of no common hazard to transport them beyond the Channel, while the seas were possessed by the superior fleets of our enemies. On the contrary it was asserted, that both Great Britain and Ireland abounded with men fit for service, and that German levies might be easily raised as well as transported, with no more than the common risque of war, to any part of the globe.

The navy was represented to be in a condition hardly adequate to the purpose of defence and the protection of commerce, much less to the activity of enterprize. The whole British naval force, fit for service, scarcely amounted to 100 sail of the line; of these many were undermanned, several out of repair, and the greater part had been long and actively employed on foreign stations. Our magazines were in an exhausted state; and with the most diligent exertions, not more than six sail could have been added to this catalogue in the ensuing spring: on the other hand, the fleets of France and Spain amounted to 140 sail of the line; thirteen new ships would have been shortly added to the French fleet; the Dutch navy would be composed of 25 sail of the line, and it was uncertain what accession the Spanish force would have received at the same period. The distribution of this force, it was added, was a very alarming circumstance. Had not peace taken place, a fleet of 40 sail of the line lay ready at Cadiz to accompany a fleet of transports, with 16,000 troops, to the West Indies; where, at least, 20 ships of the line were waiting, with as many thousand troops, to join them. Our naval strength, on that station, consisted of no more than 46 sail of the line, which was not an adequate force, making every reasonable allowance for the superior skill and courage of British seamen, to give any reasonable hopes, that we should be able to prevent the alarming designs of the enemy on our remaining West India possessions.

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1783 In the mean time, we had every reason to expect, that France would maintain her superiority in the East Indies. The reinforcement from England under Commodore Bickerton, would at most give us an equality with the enemy,—and which, after all, would, by no means, be sufficient to prevent them from landing their troops on a coast of such great extent. The force which the French already had, with Hyder Ally, exceeded the number of Europeans in the service of Great Britain, and more were daily expected. The immense armies which that Prince would bring into the field, aided by the skill and discipline of his French allies, were objects of the most serious consideration.

If we directed our attention near home, and looked to the probable operations in the Channel and the Northern Seas, in a future campaign, it was evident from the papers laid before the House of Commons, that the combined force of the House of Bourbon and Holland, would have nearly doubled our force in our own seas. It was, therefore, a matter of real wisdom and true patriotism, to avoid the hazard which the continuance of war rendered probable, by seizing the present moment of making what, considering all circumstances, might be esteemed an honourable peace.

On the other side it was contended, that the condition of the British navy was in every respect more flourishing and formidable than it had been at any preceding period of the war; that after two years of preparation the Dutch marine still continued very inconsiderable, and the augmentation of the French and Spanish fleets had always been over-rated. It was likewise affirmed, that Admiral Pigot would have possessed a force in the West Indies fully adequate to every purpose of attack or defence. For the Channel service it was said, that there remained 34 sail of the line,—which, though inferior to the fleet of the enemy, would be sufficient for the security of our trade, and equal to all the purposes of home defence.

It was also argued, that it was more than probable, that in the East Indies the British Admiral would this year have been compleat master of the sea. The apprehensions so strongly expressed of Hyder Ally, were represented as being without any reasonable foundation,—while his French allies were described as inferior, in every respect, to the European troops and disciplined natives in the British service. That, on a calm review of our situation in India, whatever calamities had befallen us from the unhappy discord among those who had the superintendence of our affairs there, it appeared to promise the speedy restoration of former prosperity.

The particular articles of the peace became the succeeding objects of consideration. It was insisted by the ministry, that the alterations which were now, according to the articles with France, to take place concerning the fisheries of Newfoundland, were favourable to Great Britain. The French King renounces the right of fishing from Cape Bonavista to Cape St. John, and obtains an extension of that privilege on the western side of the island of Newfoundland. By this stipulation the French are confined to a certain spot, and an end is put to the disputes which had heretofore been a continual matter of uneasiness between the two nations: the eastern and south eastern coast is left to the free and full enjoyment of the English; and there the fish are not only the largest, but in the greatest abundance: the curing of them also is much more convenient there than in the Straights of Belleisle, where the fogs are more prevalent: by the testimony of every officer who has served at Newfoundland, one league of coast between Cape Bonavista and St. John, is worth ten on the western side; and thus, while the stipulation is for our advantage, an encouragement is given to our national spirit and industry. It was stated, that the surrender of St. Pierre and Miquelon were concessions of no importance.

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1783 importance. The harbour of St. Pierre is small, and cannot receive men of war; the road is capable of admitting ships of force, but the bottom is rocky and dangerous. Miquelon has a road at the north end of the island, but it is a station of no advantage: vessels are there open to the easterly winds, and exposed to the attacks of an enemy. It is of no service whatever to fortify these islands; and the assertion that, if fortified, they would command the entrance into the gulf of St. Laurence, is without the least foundation: it might as well be said that Brest commands the entrance into the harbour of Plymouth. These islands could be of no service to us, and would by no means enable the French, in time of war, to molest our fisheries; as, on a survey, it appeared, that no fortification could be erected on them sufficiently strong to resist the fire of any ship of force.

It was argued, that nothing could be more inconsistent with just notions of our national interests, than to object to the stipulations which had been made with regard to the West Indies. The islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Montserrat, St. Vincent, Dominica, and Grenada, were now restored to Great Britain by the peace, in exchange for St. Lucia and Tobago; which, in fact, should be considered rather as cessions than restored captures. The former island, though it commanded a view of Martinico, was, by no means, equal in advantage to Dominica; which, in time of war, possessed the power of effectually interrupting the communication between Martinico and Guadaloupe, the two principal French islands in those seas.—The importance of Tobago to our cotton manufacturers, had been much exaggerated; for they had flourished before the acquisition of that island: and though its cotton was of a good quality, that commodity might be procured from other parts of the world.—Besides, it is by no means a healthy spot, nor are its exports or imports of any considerable value.

By the cessions in Africa, France regained possession of the river Senegal and its appendages, together with the island of Goree. But neither the one or the other were possessions of consequence or value: their commerce was inconsiderable; and, from their unhealthy climate, became the grave of numbers of our fellow subjects, who were annually sent there to watch an article of trade which we in vain endeavoured to monopolize. On the other hand, the possession of the river Gambia, which was guaranteed to Great Britain by the King of France, afforded the prospect of very considerable advantage, as it was navigable for several hundred miles, and in the neighbourhood of the Gold Coast. As much of the gum trade would now remain to the English as they ever had, or could ever want.

In justification of the stipulations which relate to the East Indies, it was contended, that though they were beneficial to the French, they were by no means injurious to Great Britain. The only advantages they had gained, besides the restoration of what had been taken from them, were some districts, to render Pondicherry and Karical places of more convenience than heretofore, and the permission to drain the marshes round Chandernagore, by encircling it with a ditch, to carry off the stagnant waters. But even allowing the French to be the gainers by the peace in the East Indies, the distracted state of the British dominions in that quarter of the globe, made some condescension, on our part, absolutely necessary. From the last accounts which were received previous to the peace, it appeared, that the possessions of the East India Company were exposed to the greatest hazard, and their finances, both at home and abroad, were in such a state, as, in all appearance, to make peace the only means of recovering our prosperity in Asia.

With respect to that article of the treaty by which all regulations relative to Dunkirk, which had been inserted in any former treaty of peace, were abrogated, it was contended, that the constraints

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constraints with regard to this harbour were of no advantage to us, and were disgraceful to France; to remove them, therefore, was to destroy an unhappy cause of hatred and discontent, which had long subsisted between the two kingdoms: that the great consequence of Dunkirk, as a port, had always been a very gross mistake, as it is near a shoaly part of the Channel, cannot receive ships of a large size, and never can be a rendezvous for squadrons of ships of war. Nor should it be forgotten, that while this port can produce no material mischief to us in time of war, it may operate greatly to our advantage in time of peace, as it is extremely well situated to carry on the English and Irish trade with the Low Countries; a branch of commerce which is known to be of very great importance.

To this review of the treaty with France, succeeded a recapitulation of that with Spain.—To this monarchy, it was said, that restitutions were made of possessions originally its own, and which were far from being of any real importance to this country. Minorca was always kept at an enormous expence in peace, and, from a variety of circumstances, could never be tenable in time of war. With regard to the cession of East Florida, and the permission allowed to Spain to retain West Florida, those articles were certainly to be defended on substantial grounds:—The right of conquest had given West Florida to the Spanish monarchy, and the surrender of East Florida was the unavoidable consequence of an unfortunate and misconducted war: yet for these concessions an actual compensation had been made by the restoration of the Bahama islands. It should likewise be considered, that the expence of maintaining East and West Florida had been excessive: for three years, the charges for East Florida amounted to 368,000*l.*; and the expences of West Florida, for the same period, arose to a much larger sum. It was, at the same time, proper to remember, that the imports and exports of these provinces bore no proportion to the burthen of their maintenance; their dereliction, therefore, did not afford so great advantage to Spain as might be generally supposed:—Besides, if they had continued in our possession, it is more than probable that they might have become a source of future contests between the English and the Americans.

On a candid examination of the concessions which were made to the House of Bourbon, they were certainly much greater in appearance than in reality, as they can scarcely be said to afford it more real advantages than were in its possession before the war: its commerce would receive no other increase than what might proceed from an intercourse with the United States of America; and there could be no doubt but the latter would find it their interest to give a commercial preference to Great Britain. If France and Spain, in the powerful efforts they had made to separate the North American colonies from Great Britain, were prompted by the expectation of monopolizing their trade, they would certainly find themselves extremely mistaken: they would share no more of it than was perfectly consistent with the interests of the Americans; who would, like all other trading nations, be governed by the mere prospect of gain, divested of all other considerations.

The treaty with the United States of America, as far as it related to their independence, had, in a great measure, been previously formed by Parliament. The only points that remained for discussion, were the arrangement of the boundaries, the settlement of the fisheries, and the terms stipulated for the Loyalists. These were defended in the following manner:—

By the line of boundary, all the back settlements, and the whole country between the Alleghany mountains and the Mississippi, were ceded to the United States: to have retained the large tract behind them, for the purpose of settling it with persons of different political principles, would have been little better than laying the foundation of new war and fresh disturbances.

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bances. The free navigation of the Mississippi was, however, reserved. The profits to be derived from the possession of these northern districts, had been greatly over-rated. Even Canada did not yield to the mother country a balance in trade in any wise equivalent to its cost: the expences incurred on account of that province, had, on the average of several years, amounted to the annual sum of 800,000*l.* On the other hand, the exports from Great Britain to Canada were only 140,000*l.* and the imports no more than 50,000*l.* It could not, therefore be contended, that 50,000*l.* a year was a sufficient object with a great trading nation to induce the continuation of a war, of which its representatives in Parliament had declared the most positive abhorrence. But, in fact, the trade to Canada was not given up; it was only divided; and in such a manner, as to prove beneficial to Great Britain. Monopolies are at all times odious; and whatever can conduce to rivalry, advances the spirit of traffic. It was also to be observed, that the best resources of trade in Canada lie to the northward: for though beavers are to be found in all those countries of North America which are situated between the 30th and 60th degrees of latitude, yet their furs are much thicker, and the animals themselves more numerous, in the northern than in the southern climates.

The cession of Ponobscot had been stated as a loss to Great Britain, as depriving it of a territory that had furnished masts for the navy in great abundance: but that objection could not be made with any degree of truth; as that country was so exhausted of timber, that there was not a tree growing in it fit for a mast of any considerable size: nor, indeed, was Great Britain in want of plentiful resources to supply herself with that article.

The necessity which it was universally acknowledged there was for obtaining a permanent peace, by suppressing any ground of jealousy and contention, justified the Canada boundaries; and they were not less strongly supported by that liberal principle which had begun to extend itself over Europe, and which was eager to break the oppressive chains of monopoly. It was an acknowledged commercial maxim, that monopolies were, generally considered, injurious; and if there is a nation which ought to reject them, it is England. Situated as we are, there is nothing we ought to covet so much as a free trade: our real interest and prosperity consisted in it; and no happier policy could be adopted than to extend by negotiation, a liberal and enlarged plan of commerce. We had acted upon these principles with respect to Ireland; and it would be equally beneficial to exercise a similar liberality in our transactions with America: the cases were similar; and while the one was commended, it was folly to rail against the other: but, in fact, the apparent generosity which had been shown to the United States, was economy to ourselves.

It was made an objection to the negociation with the Americans, that they were allowed to fish on the banks of Newfoundland, and in all the bays and creeks, as well as on the coasts of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America. But it had been very properly urged by the American commissioners, that the refusal to them of this right of fishing, would be a manifestation of hostile intentions, and tend to preclude every hope of reconciliation. Besides, the fishery lay in their part of the ocean, and it was, in reality, impossible to exclude them from it by any kind of restrictions: and even if it had been possible to make them renounce this claim, the perpetual violation of such a compact, would have proved an endless source of animosity and contention. But further, it should be considered, that there are two seasons for the fishery of Newfoundland; the first commences in February, and the last in May or June. The first season is not so important; but, such as it is, it must belong exclusively to the Americans: for no ships from England or France can take their stations there at such an early period

1783 period of the year. It is a privilege which the Americans possess from the vicinity of their coast: it is an advantage which nature has given them; and to attempt to overthrow it, would not only be unjust, but impracticable. With respect to the second, or principal fishery, the advantages were all on our side, from the possession of Newfoundland, where none but ourselves were entitled to the privilege of drying and curing fish. It was in consequence of this advantage, that we did not stand in need of the liberty of carrying on any fishery on the coast of the countries belonging to the American states.

No common degree of discontent had been expressed against that article of the treaty by which the Congress was to recommend the case of the Loyalists to the consideration of the different states which composed the American confederacy. But, on this point, only one alternative presented itself; either to accept from Congress their recommendation to the provincial states in favour of those unfortunate people, or to continue the war. The American commissioners had no instructions to proceed further than they did, nor could they possibly receive any; as it was not in the power of Congress itself to do more than strongly to recommend the Loyalists to pity and favour. In all its measures, since its first constitution, for providing either money or men, Congress had never gone further than to offer their recommendation to the provincial assemblies, and it has always been received with respect and deference. But if, after all, the loyalists should not be received and cherished in the bosom of their own country, it could not be supposed that England was so lost to gratitude and honour, as not to afford them an asylum; and it would be surely a much wiser measure to console them, in the most ample manner, for their losses, than to heap distress upon the nation by continuing the calamities of war. Without spilling another drop of blood, and with one-fifth part of the expence of a campaign, ease and happiness might be given to the Loyalists, in as full a manner as they had been ever enjoyed by them. Nor should it be passed by without observation, that no expedient was left untried to obtain the most complete re-establishment of the Loyalists in their original situation.—This point was urged in preference to all the rest: nay, so forcibly, and in such a peremptory manner was it insisted upon by the British commissioners, that the very negociation itself was suspended, and very near being broken off, on the American commissioners declaring the state of their powers, which has been already described.—Besides, it must surely be allowed, that policy dictated, with regard to America, that we should not be governed by slight and temporary considerations, but by the view of obtaining real and lasting advantages. It was our interest to guard against the possibility of future resentments, and to lay the foundation of an affection and unity, which would terminate in an enlarged scheme of commercial intercourse, and in a communication of mutual prosperity which might endure for ages.

Such was the manner in which the ministry defended their work of peace: and we now proceed to state, with all possible brevity, the principles on which it was disapproved.

That part of the coast of Newfoundland where the French were to enjoy an exclusive fishery, could not, in reason, be deemed less productive than that we retained. It had been specifically demanded as a proportionable share by the French ministry; and there is no reason to imagine that they would, knowingly, have contented themselves with the worst.

The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were susceptible of more improvement in the article of fortification, and would prove of more utility in time of war than had been represented.—Their situation alone commanded the Gulf of St. Laurence, and when properly strengthened, might

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1783 might greatly molest our fishery on the banks of Newfoundland, and interrupt our navigation to Canada.

The cession of Tobago and St. Lucia was a very pernicious measure.—In a commercial light, the first of these islands was of very great importance, as its cotton was the best in the West Indies. The second was a station whose utility in war was never doubted: it was a constant check upon the operations of the enemy in those parts; it had enabled us to keep a continual eye on the motions of their fleets; and had, in fact, been the cause of the glorious victory on the 12th of April, which had given so favourable a turn to the situation of our affairs.

Nothing could be more mischievous or improvident than the yielding up Senegal and Goree. The ministry might have learned from the last peace, that France was clearly of opinion that the gum trade could not exist without the possession of one of these places. It was upon this principle, suggested by France, and admitted by us, that they were then divided, and that England and France were secured respectively in a participation of the trade: but now, that they are united, the trade is exclusively in the power of France. It had been urged, that the trade was an object of trifling importance; but without it, two great branches of our manufacture, that of printed linens, and that of silks and gauzes, would be destroyed. The want of it must be very much felt indeed by us in case of another war; and, during peace, the price of the commodity would be adjusted by France.

With respect to the abrogation of all the former articles relative to Dunkirk, it was allowed that much difference of opinion existed with respect to the importance of this harbour; but its deficiencies, in other respects, were abundantly made up by the peculiar advantages of its situation. The basin, when opened and repaired, would be capable of containing twenty or thirty ships of considerable size and burthen; which, issuing out at all seasons, would annoy our trade in its very centre, and counterbalance, in some measure, the advantages of our local situation for commerce.

To these concessions ought to be added the restoration of their settlements, and other important advantages secured to the French in the East Indies. Pondicherry was not only given back, but to render it the more acceptable, a large territory was made to accompany it. A free, independent, and, which is more alarming, an undefined trade in this quarter of the world was presented to France; and, in effect, she had obtained the liberty of surrounding Chandernagore with a fortification: for what interpretation but this can be assigned to the article conferring the privilege of surrounding that place with a ditch?—During the last peace, the French had made what they called a ditch in this station; but when General Campbell inspected it, he without hesitation pronounced it to be a fortification, and it was accordingly destroyed by the servants of the East India Company. The permission therefore to restore this ditch, would, at best, endanger contention and disturbance, but would likewise, in all probability, end in improving Chandernagore into a place of arms, and a formidable post in the centre of our government.

In this manner, it was said, had France, though unsuccessful in the East, and defeated in the West Indies; when deprived of her fishery in the North American seas, and cut off from the most lucrative branch of the African trade; when her marine began visibly to decline, and ours to recover its ascendancy; in this inferiority of circumstances, her negociators had been able to frame a treaty as advantageous as if the entire superiority was on her side.

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The treaty with Spain underwent the following strictures:—

By the cession of Minorca we had lost an island of the utmost importance to the support of our Mediterranean trade in time of war.—There our men of war, privateers, and merchantmen found an harbour to refit, when the occasion required it, and a certain refuge from the enemy.

Whatever reasons might be offered for the cession of West Florida, the surrender of East Florida could not, by the aid of any sophistry, find a plausible justification. The latter province, whether in point of situation or of commercial produce, had either been little understood, or designedly under-rated. It possessed one of the finest harbours in the world, called the Bay of Tampa, or Espiritu Santo, situated in an healthy climate, and where ships were safe from the annoyance of worms. Besides, the coast of East Florida was covered with small islands, from whence privateers might run to sea, and attack our Jamaica trade as it passed the Gulf: and this inconvenience was the more to be feared in future, from the loss of Georgia, whose harbours formerly served both to protect our trade and to shelter it from tempests. It possessed also some internal resources, and was capable of great improvement. The people settled in it were firmly attached to the British government: but its chief recommendation was the convenience of its situation as an asylum for the persecuted Loyalists, which would have been far preferable to the comfortless climate of Nova Scotia.

The terms granted to America partook of the reprehensive observations which had fallen upon the other branches of the peace. It was considered as an unnecessary sacrifice of the interests of Great Britain, that the limits assigned to the dependencies of that country and the United States, left the latter in possession of a multiplicity of strong places, constructed and fortified at a vast expence to England, and the cession of which was not justified by any valid reason whatever. By this cession, a considerable part, if not the whole of the fur trade, was for ever transferred to the United States, and all attempts to defend it upon the principle of a free trade were absurd and frivolous. The arguments drawn from the amount of exports and imports,, would make rather for the entire cession of Canada; and, without the interior trade of that country, it was a mockery to keep the two forts of Montreal and Quebec, to be supported by this kingdom at a very great expence, and to become a subject of future disagreement. But the balance had not been fairly stated; for the charge was, in a great degree, to be placed to the account of the war; and the profits would have been very great in peace, had we not given away the most valuable part of the province. We held Charlestown, in South Carolina, which gave us, in a great measure, the command of that province. We were masters of New York and the neighbouring isles, especially the large and important one of Long Island. These being the head-quarters of the British armies, and lying in the centre of North America, kept the whole continent in awe. The Indian countries and nations contiguous to the back settlements were in our interest; and, in the colonies themselves, we had numbers of zealous friends and adherents: even among those who professed themselves our enemies, multitudes were very desirous of terminating the war, at all events, and did not hesitate to express their sentiments in the most unreserved manner. The Canadian merchants had, at an enormous expence, erected forts and storehouses on the banks of the lakes, from a conviction of the great profits which were to be derived from the commerce they had established in the interior parts of the country; but these would now prove of little use, from the superior share which the Americans could not fail to derive of all the benefits produced in future by a commercial

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The article concerning the Loyalists was attacked with great severity. The restitution of their property, confiscated during the war for their fidelity to our cause, had been refused by the American commissioners, on pretence that neither they, nor Congress itself, could comply with it, any further than by recommendation to the different states: if such were the powers of Congress, or of those whom it commissioned to treat on its behalf, they were totally inadequate to the proper purposes of treating, and tended only to delude those with whom they pretended to negotiate.

The demand was in itself so just, and founded on so many historical precedents, that Congress could not possibly plead a want of foresight that it would be made. It had been usual, in all ages, on the cessation of a civil war, to grant a general amnesty. No other motives but those of the basest and most barbarous revenge, could induce men to express any aversion to such an humane and necessary measure: next to the cruelty of such a refusal, was the meanness of those who submitted to it. Circumstances empowered this nation to have acted with such firmness, as to compel the Americans to relax their obstinacy in this particular. Until they had consented to a generous treatment of the Loyalists, we ought to have withheld the restitution of the many strong places still remaining in our hands, and made the surrender of them the price of their acquiescence in our demands in favour of the brave and faithful people who had suffered so much on our account.

Such were the leading arguments employed in favour of, and against the peace. The debates on that subject in the House of Commons lasted throughout the night; and, at eight in the morning, the ministerial address was rejected by a majority of 16; 208 voting for, and 224 against it. In the House of Lords, the ministry was more fortunate, as the address moved by them there, was carried in their favour, by 72 votes again 59.—Four days after this debate, the opposition, encouraged by their success, moved, in consequence of it, “That the concessions made to the enemies of Great Britain were greater than they were entitled to, on a comparative view of their situation and that of this country.” This motion revived the preceding altercation; but opposition again remained victorious, by a majority of seventeen: 190 voting for ministry, and 207 against it.

In this manner ended the parliamentary debates occasioned by the peace.—In the mean time, a negotiation had been opened with the States-General at the Hague. At the close of the last year, after the provisional treaty with America had been concluded, and while those with France and Spain were in great forwardness, the Dutch ministers at Paris proposed a negotiation with the British minister at that court, on the terms offered to them in the month of April preceding; but they met with a refusal, in their turn, and were given to understand, that having put a negative on the endeavours of Great Britain to effect a particular reconciliation with Holland, that country had no right to expect any more than to be placed on the same footing as other powers.

Preliminary articles of peace being, however, agreed upon between Great Britain on the one part, and by France and Spain on the other, in the January following, a suspension of arms took place at the same time with respect to Holland, by which the Dutch were included in the general pacification. But notwithstanding the definitive arrangements among the other belligerent powers, in consequence of the restoration of peace, were finally concluded in September, it was not till then that the States-General came to a preliminary settlement with Great Britain.

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The consequences which had been predicted to the Dutch, on their taking part against the English, were strictly verified. Impelled by the narrow maxims of a commercial jealousy, and improvident of all concerns but those of the present hour, they listened to the clamours of an interested faction, and were deluded by the prospect of advantages which they have not obtained. An honourable adherence to the interest of Great Britain, which the experience of two centuries had so forcibly proved to be their own, would have operated as an effectual check upon that power it chiefly behoves them to keep within due bounds. Little more than a respectable system of neutrality, or, at most, an explicit determination to preserve inviolate their friendship and engagements with this country, would have been sufficient, in conjunction with the acting strength of Great Britain, to deter its enemies from forming that combination which cost it such a profusion of blood and treasure to resist.

A conduct framed upon such principles, would have supported that character of consistency and foresight for which they had been so long renowned; it would have secured that independent situation which they had hitherto so happily maintained; and it would have prevented the degradation of being forced to seek the protection of a power whose ambition was proverbial in the political world, and the effects of which no people had more woefully experienced than themselves, at different periods of their government.

After Holland, Spain was the greatest sufferer among those who had formed the confederacy against Great Britain.—The recovery of Minorca and the Floridas, was but a poor compensation for the prodigious expence and loss of men incurred at the siege of Gibraltar, and in the various naval expeditions and extraordinary exertions that monarchy was obliged to make, in consequence of its engagements with France.

All Europe, without excepting its own subjects, were well convinced of the folly of Spain in contributing to the independence of the British colonies. It will, without doubt, one day feel the mischiefs arising from a proximity to a people who inherit, in a very great degree, the courage and enterprising disposition of the nation from which they sprung, and who have already given very sufficient proofs that they will omit no opportunity of extending their limits, and carrying their commerce as far as their power and circumstances will enable them.

Even France itself, though it may be said to have lopped off a limb from the colossal power of the British empire, has bought the darling object at too great a price. The resources of that kingdom were so exhausted, and its finances so completely reduced, that in the month of October in this year, the bank of Paris, which was supported by the whole strength of government, stopped payment. Nor was this all,—for it soon appeared, in a variety of instances, how very short indeed of their expectations those benefits would prove, which they were so sanguine in promising to themselves, on the emancipation of the British North American colonies from their dependence on the parent state.

Nor does the change in their political system appear to be fraught with any real advantage to the United States.—Whatever may be their future destiny, it is very evident that a long period will pass away before they can arrive at a permanent and satisfactory settlement of their internal affairs, or acquire a political stability and national eminence. Their commerce, from which they had formed such extensive and flattering prospects, will long feel the want of the sustaining hand of Great Britain, and convince such as are not already convinced, that their separation from this country is by no means that great political good of which they had been taught to boast with so much confidence.

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Great Britain, on the other hand, though deprived of those colonies which she had planted and reared with so much care, and protected with so much glory, still remained an object of terror and admiration to all her enemies. With a spirit superior to all difficulties, and with resources, though greatly tried, yet by no means exhausted, she still held up her head among the nations of the world.

The events of the last campaign were objects of serious consideration with her enemies.—The successes obtained by Great Britain, and the valour with which they were accomplished, had fixed the attention of all Europe. France and Spain began to reflect with a growing apprehension on the precarious nature of those benefits which they had expected would naturally have resulted from their combination; they therefore came to the resolution of desisting from the vast pretensions they had formed, and of contenting themselves with having obtained independence to the colonists of North America, leaving to the Americans themselves, the grateful task of rendering, if it were possible, their dismemberment from the British empire beneficial to their allies, and detrimental to Great Britain.

With whatever severity the terms of this peace might have been treated at the time of its conclusion, there was more than one period of the war, when it was universally believed, that peace would never have been purchased without making far greater sacrifices on the part of this country. Without entering into an examination of the arguments employed by contending parties on the occasion; we, who now feel the effects of that peace, and are witnesses to the growing prosperity of the empire, shall, without hesitation pronounce, that the statesmen who formed this peace, deserve to be ranked among the first friends of their country.

In this manner terminated a war, the most important that has been known since the discovery of the new world. Both hemispheres were deeply concerned in the issue of it. At its very commencement, it was evidently perceived in Europe, that if Great Britain should be finally deprived of the sovereignty over her revolted colonies, a new system of politics would diffuse itself in process of time, over every part of the globe.

In this great revolution, the European States, possessed of dominions in America, beheld an immense portion of the earth, hitherto subject to their obedience and subservient to their designs, animated by the successful example of a numerous proportion of its inhabitants to throw off this yoke and claim independence. An event of this kind, by confining them to the limits of their own country, would of course produce a very great change of their politics and interests, and oblige them to adopt new maxims of conduct both in their domestic and foreign concerns.

Those powers, on the other hand, who had no territories in America, would still greatly participate in the effects of this change, from the connections still subsisting, and the new correspondence of it, between the European nations, in every branch of political and commercial intercourse.

Great Britain, though, in appearance, greatly injured by her immense loss of territory, would, nevertheless, from the excellence of her constitution and the wisdom of her government; but, above all, from the genius of industry and persevering spirit of her people, retain, in all probability, the advantages and importance which had so long resulted from them, and still maintain her superior rank among the powers of Europe.

Among those truths which it most concerns mankind to know, the British nation had eminently proved, that the splendor and felicity of a state by no means depend on the extent of its territorial possessions, so much as on the improvement of those opportunities which are derived from

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from nature and situation. These were benefits of which no vicissitudes of fortune could deprive this country; and it was in the regular experience of the past efficacy, the confidence of its future prosperity looked for a certain foundation.

This truth had at no time been so powerfully elucidated, as during this terrible contest. Dispossessed of those colonies on which it had been constantly affirmed that her greatness principally depended,—opposed by them with a force equal in strength and spirit to that of her most formidable enemies,—assailed by these in every quarter,—attacked by her antient allies, and abandoned by all the world; in this tremendous situation, cut off from a variety of her former commercial resources, and relying wholly on herself, she still found means to resist the most powerful combination that is recorded in the history of the world. She fought her foes by sea and land, and with advantage, wherever they were to be found, and on the sea their trade was nearly ruined, while their naval losses were infinitely superior to her own; the balance against them, at the close of the war, being 28 ships of the line and 37 frigates, carrying, altogether, near 2,000 guns.

Having sustained this dreadful conflict with so much glory, and terminated it with so much honour, without the least assistance or interfering friendship of any power, against such an host of enemies, she rose from amidst all her dangers and difficulties, to offer to the world such a spectacle of renown as the annals of time had never recorded.

In consequence, however, of the censure passed on the peace by the House of Commons, the Earl of Shelburne quitted his office of First Commissioner of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer declared in Parliament, that he only held his place till a successor should be appointed to fill it: and as it was some time before a new administration could be arranged, a ministerial interregnum ensued, during which time the kingdom remained without a responsible government. At length, on the second of April, a new ministry was announced to the public, of which the following persons formed the Cabinet Council: the Duke of Portland, First Commissioner of the Treasury,—Lord North and Mr. Charles Fox, Secretaries of State,—Lord J. Cavendish, Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Lord Keppel, First Commissioner of the Admiralty,—Lord Stormont, President of the Council,—Lord Townshend, Master General of the Ordnance,—the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Privy Seal,—Mr. Fitzpatrick, Secretary at War, &c.

The first object of importance that engaged the attention of Parliament, after the change of administration, was the opening a commercial intercourse with the states of North America. By the prohibitory acts which had passed during the rebellion, all communication with that country, in the way of trade, had been entirely cut off; and though it was the prevailing opinion in Parliament, that those acts were virtually repealed by the acknowledgment of the independence of the United States, yet, in their new character, they became subject to other restrictions which it was necessary to relax and modify: a bill for this purpose had been brought into the House of Commons by the late ministry; but, during the great variety of discussions which it underwent, difficulties of such a complicated nature had arisen, that it never got through the committee.

In the mean time, no regulations whatever having been stipulated by the treaty of peace, the commercial interests of the country were suffering very materially; for not only a number of vessels, richly freighted for America, were detained in harbour, but there was great danger of having the market pre-occupied by our rivals. In this emergency, the new ministers thought it best to drop the old bill for the present, and to pass two short bills, one to repeal all

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1783 all the prohibitory acts,—the other to remove the necessity of requiring manifestoes or other documents for any ships belonging to the United States of America, arriving from thence at any port of this kingdom, or upon entering or clearing out from any port within the said United States, and to lodge in the King and Council, for a limited time, a power to make such other regulations as might be expedient.

On the 16th of July the session of Parliament was closed: his Majesty's speech to both Houses on the occasion, contained nothing particular, but that the exigencies of the public service might require their being called together again at an early period.

It may be necessary to observe, that the state of the affairs of the East India Company, continued to be the object of unremitted investigation in the two parliamentary committees appointed for that purpose, but that the unsettled state of government prevented any effectual measures from being taken in consequence of their reports. The proceedings of the ensuing session will afford us an opportunity of entering more particularly into those great and important objects.

The following treaty between the Mahrattas and the East India Company, which was finally ratified in the month of February in this year, was a most desirable event, and promised the return of stability to our affairs in the East. This peace was negotiated on principles which were equally honourable to the contracting parties; and, in the liberality of its articles, there was a favourable prognostic of its duration.

“ Article I. It is stipulated and agreed to between the Honourable the English East India Company and the Peshwa, through the mediation of Madhoo Row Scindia, that all countries, places, cities, and forts, including Baskeen, &c. which have been taken from the Peshwa, during the war that has arisen since the treaty settled by Colonel Upton, and have come into the possession of the English, shall be delivered up to the Peshwa. The territories, forts, cities, &c. to be restored, shall be delivered within the space of two months from the period when this treaty shall become complete (as hereafter described) to such persons as the Peshwa, or his minister Nana Furnavese shall appoint.

“ II. It is agreed between the English Company and the Peshwa, that Salfette, and three other islands, viz. Elephanta, Caranja, and Hog, which are included in the treaty of Colonel Upton, shall continue for ever in the possession of the English. If any other islands have been taken in the course of the present war, they shall be delivered up to the Peshwa.

“ III. Whereas it was stipulated in the fourth article of the treaty of Colonel Upton, That the Peshwa and all the chiefs of the Mahratta state, do agree to give the English Company for ever all right and title to the city Baroach, as full and complete as ever they collected from the Moguls or otherwise, without retaining any claim of Chout, or any other claims whatever; so that the English Company shall possess it without participation or claim of any kind. This article is accordingly continued in full force and effect.

“ IV. The Peshwa having formerly, in the treaty of Colonel Upton, agreed, by way of friendship, to give up the English a country of three lacks of rupees near Baroach, the English do now, at the request of Madhoo Row Scindia, consent to relinquish their claim to the said country in favour of the Peshwa.

“ V. The country which Seeajee and Futtu Sing Gwickwar gave to the English, and which is mentioned in the seventh article of the treaty with Colonel Upton, being therein left in a state of suspense; the English, with a view to obviate all future disputes, now agree, that

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1783 that it shall be restored, and it is hereby settled, that, if the said country be a part of the established territory of the Gwickwar, it shall be restored to the Gwickwar; and if it shall be a part of the Peshwa's territories, it shall be restored to the Peshwa.

“ VI. The English engage, that having allowed Ragonaut Row a period of four months, from the time in which this treaty shall become complete, to fix on a place of residence, they will not after the expiration of the said period afford him any support, protection, or assistance, nor supply him with money for his expences: and the Peshwa on his part engages, that if Ragonaut Row will voluntarily, and of his own accord, repair to Maha Rajah Madhoo Row Scindia, and quietly reside with him, the sum of 25,000 rupees per month shall be paid him for his maintenance, and no injury whatever shall be offered to him by the Peshwa, or any of his people.

“ VII. The Honourable English East India Company and the Peshwa, being desirous that their respective allies shall be included in this peace, it is hereby mutually stipulated, that each party shall make peace with the allies of the other in the manner herein-after specified.

“ VIII. The territory which has long been the established jagheer of Seeajee Gwickwar, and Futty Sing Gwickwar, that is to say, whatever territory Futty Sing Gwickwar possessed at the commencement of the present war, shall hereafter for ever remain on the usual footing in his possession; and the said Futty Sing shall, from the date of this treaty being complete, pay for the future to the Peshwa the tribute as usual, previous to the present war; and shall perform such services, and be subject to such obedience as have long been established, and customary. No claims shall be made on the said Futty Sing, by the Peshwa, for the period that is past.

“ IX. The Peshwa engages, that whereas the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, having concluded a treaty with him, hath disturbed and taken possession of territories belonging to the English and their allies, he shall be made to relinquish them, and they shall be restored to the Company, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn. All prisoners that have been taken on either side during the war, shall be released, and Hyder Ally Cawn shall be made to relinquish all such territories belonging to the English Company, and their allies, as he may have taken possession of since the ninth of the month Ramazan, in the year 1180, being the date of his treaty with the Peshwa; and the said territories shall be delivered over to the English, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn, within six months after this treaty being complete: and the English in such case agreed, that so long as Hyder Ally Cawn shall afterwards abstain from hostilities against them and their allies, and so long as he shall continue in friendship with the Peshwa, that they will, in no respect, act hostilely towards him.

“ X. The Peshwa engages on his own behalf, as well as on behalf of the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn, Ragojee Boufala, Syna Saheb Souba, and the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, that they shall in every respect maintain peace towards the English and their allies the Nabob Asoph ul Dowlah Behader, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn Behader, and shall in no respect whatever give them any disturbance. The English engage on their own behalf, as well as on the behalf of their allies the Nabob Asoph ul Dowlah, and the Nabob Mahomed Ally Cawn, that they shall in every respect maintain peace towards the Peshwa, and his allies the Nabob Nizam Ally Cawn, Ragojee Boufala, and Syna Saheb: and the English further engage on their own behalf, as well as on the behalf of their allies, that they will maintain peace also
towards

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1783 towards the Nabob Hyder Ally Cawn, under the conditions specified in the ninth article of this treaty.

“ XI. The Honourable the East India Company, and the Peshwa, mutually agree, that the vessels of each shall offer no disturbance to the navigation of the vessels of the other: and the vessels of each shall be allowed access to the ports of the other, where they shall meet with no molestation, and the fullest protection shall be reciprocally afforded.

“ XII. The Peshwa, and the chiefs of the Mahratta state, hereby agree, that the English shall enjoy the privilege of trade as formerly, in the Mahratta territories, and shall meet with no kind of interruption: and in the same manner, the East India Company agree, that the subjects of the Peshwa shall be allowed the privileges of trade without interruption in the territories of the English.

“ XIII. The Peshwa hereby engages, that he will not suffer any factories of other European nations to be established in his territories, or those of the chiefs dependent on him, excepting only such as are already established by the Portuguese; and he will hold no intercourse of friendship with any other European nations: and the English on their part agree, that they will not afford assistance to any nation of Decan, or Hindostan, at enmity with the Peshwa.

“ XIV. The English and the Peshwa mutually agree, that neither will afford any kind of assistance to the enemies of the other.

“ XV. The Honourable the Governor General and Council of Fort William engage, that they will not permit any of the chiefs, dependents, or subjects of the English, the gentlemen of Bombay, Surat, or Madras, to act contrary, at any place, to the terms of this treaty. In the same manner the Peshwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan engages, that none of the chiefs or subjects of the Mahratta state shall act contrary to them.

“ XVI. The Honourable East India Company, and the Peshwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan, having the fullest confidence in Maha Rajah Subadar Madhoo Row Scindia Behader, they have both requested the said Maha Rajah to be the mutual guarantee for the perpetual and invariable adherence of both parties to the conditions of this treaty; and the said Madhoo Row Scindia, from a regard to the welfare of both states, hath taken upon himself the mutual guarantee. If either of the parties shall deviate from the conditions of this treaty, the said Maha Rajah will join the other party, and will to the utmost of his power, endeavour to bring the aggressor to a proper understanding.

“ XVII. It is hereby agreed, that whatever territories, forts or cities in Guzzerat, were granted by Ragonaut Row to the English, previous to the treaty of Colonel Upton, and have come into their possession, the restitution of which was stipulated in the seventh article of the said treaty, shall be restored agreeable to the terms of the said treaty.

“ This treaty, consisting of seventeen articles, is settled at Salbey, in the camp of Maha Rajah Subadar Madhoo Row Scindia, on the fourth of the month Jemmad ul Saany, in the year 1187 of the Hegira, corresponding with the 17th of May, 1782, of the Christian æra, by the said Maha Rajah, and Mr. David Anderson. A copy hereof shall be sent, by each of the above-named persons, to their respective principals at Fort William and Poonah; and on both copies being returned, the one under the seal of the Honourable the East India Company, and signature of the Honourable Governor General and Council of Fort William, shall be delivered to Maha Rajah Madhoo Row Scindia Behader, and the other under the seal of the Peshwa Madhoo Row Pundit Purdhan, and the signature of Ballagee Pundit Nana Furnavese,

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1783 shall be delivered to Mr. Anderson; this treaty shall be deemed complete and ratified, and the articles herein contained shall become binding on both the contracting parties.

Written in the Mahratta character, by Ragoo Bhow Dewan. "In all seventeen articles, on the 4th of Jemmad ul Akher, or the 5th of Jeyt Adeck, in the Shukul Pattah, in the year 1182."

Subscribed in the Mahratta character, by Mahajee Scindia, on the same day.

Agreed to what is above written,

(Signed,)

D. ANDERSON.

JAMES ANDERSON, }
WILLIAM BLAIN, } *witnesses,*

A true translation, J. ANDERSON, Assistant to the Embassy.

"Subscribed in the hand writing of Nana Furnavese." Done by me Ballajee Inardine, on the 15th of Mohurram, in the year 1183 (December 20, 1782) under the small seal of the Peshwa, ratified also by Scindia, the 21st of Rabbie ul Owai; counterpart subscribed by Mr. Anderson, the 24th of February, 1783.

Nothing could be more advantageous, or happen more opportunely for the English, than the conclusion of this treaty with the Mahrattas at such a critical period: for, independent of its commercial benefits, particularly that granted by the ninth article, whereby the sole right of establishing factories in the Mahratta states is vested in the East India Company, the detaching so powerful a people from the interest of Hyder Ally, and converting a formidable enemy into an active friend, was a most happy stroke of policy, especially as our affairs on the coast of Malabar, a short time subsequent to this, took a very unfavourable turn,—the expedition of General Matthews into the Canaree country having entirely failed, his army being wholly cut off, and himself taken prisoner.—Of this unfortunate transaction we shall here give the following brief statement.

On the 5th of January, in this year, General Matthews stormed the city of Onore, situated about 300 miles to the south of Bombay, and one of the principal places in the country of Canaree. The death of Hyder Ally happening about this time, had excited the greatest expectation in his enemies, of being able to profit by this event. The presidency of Bombay, in consequence of it, sent orders to General Matthews to proceed with all the force he could collect, in order to gain possession of Bednure, the capital of the Canaree country, by which means the treasures of Hyder Ally, which were reputed to be immense, would fall into his hands, with all the magazines of war. Colonel Macleod, with as many troops as could be spared from our possessions in Mysore, having joined General Matthews, the open country was speedily reduced; Bednure, which now bore the name of Hyder Nagur, being incapable of defence, was surrendered, with all its treasures, on certain stipulations, to the British commander; Mangalore and Carwar, two strong fortresses on the coast, were also taken, and this fertile and favourite country was completely subdued.

On the surrender of Bednure, which took place in the beginning of February, the British commander imprisoned the Indian governor, in direct violation of the articles of capitulation, and committed various irregularities which gave great offence to his principal officers. Col. Macleod, Colonel Humberstone and Major Shaw left the army, in the midst of its progress, and retired to Bombay. These officers belonged to the King's troops, and were men of approved honour and courage. The most bitter recriminations took place between them and the General after this retreat. One point of dispute among them was a matter of rank: the
commander

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1783 commander was a general only on the Company's staff, and Colonel Macleod was a senior officer in the King's service. Another question respected the plunder of Tippoo Saib's unfortunate subjects. The disgusted officers charged General Matthews with making a private agreement with the Viceroy, subsequent to the general capitulation, by which that Prince had been permitted to claim a considerable treasure that was at first destined for the plunder of the army. The General, in return, declared, that his whole forces were loose and unfeeling as the most licentious freebooters, and that their mutinous dispositions and unruly behaviour, had rendered it impossible for him to take those measures which might be necessary for the preservation of his conquest.

The Presidency of Bombay took the most decided part with Colonel Macleod; and on the 27th of March they determined to remove General Matthews and appointed Colonel Macleod to succeed him. In the mean time, they received intelligence from the General of a force collecting against him, and the most pressing applications for a reinforcement. But, whether from inability, or the impression they felt from the disapprobation of his conduct, we cannot immediately determine, no reinforcement was prepared. Colonel Macleod, who left Bombay on the 5th of April, took with him only the Ranger cutter to convey him to the fortrefs of Onore.

The loss of Mangalore was an object of great concern to Tippoo Saib, who had succeeded to his father's designs as well as to his power: as by the surrender of his principal sea-port, an end was put to the project of becoming a maritime power, which Hyder Ally had formed and brought into somewhat of a state of maturity,—a number of stout ships, three of which were of the line, being already far advanced in their construction. This Prince, therefore, prepared immediately to march against the British forces in the Bednure country, resolving to evacuate the Carnatic, rather than lose a province which his father had made the feat of his empire and his favourite residence.

The army with which Tippoo Saib advanced to the rescue of his capital, amounted to 100,000 men. The force which General Matthews had to oppose him, amounted only to between 2,000 and 3,000, of whom 600 or 700 only were Europeans. It had been expected by his officers, that, on being apprised of the multitudes that were approaching, he would have posted himself at the passes on the mountains leading down to the sea coast, where, it was believed, he might effectually have protected his late conquests; but, as it must appear, under the most extreme degree of infatuation, he marched out of Bednure, and gave battle to Tippoo Saib in an open plain. The result of his temerity was, that, after a short contest, his little army was routed with great slaughter, and he was obliged, with the remains of his small force, to take shelter in a fortrefs that stood upon an eminence near the town,—here they were immediately invested; where, after sustaining a siege of near three weeks, he at length offered to capitulate. The terms obtained of Tippoo Saib were, the security of private property, and that the British forces should be conducted in safety to Bombay. But as these conditions deprived the garrison of the immense booty it had acquired by the taking of Bednure, an avaricious endeavour was made to elude them: for this purpose, the treasures that had been found in the fortrefs was divided entirely among the garrison, and no part of it was left to the conqueror, to whom, according to the capitulation, the whole belonged: but this contrivance was soon discovered, and being interpreted by Tippoo Saib as an infraction of the agreement made on the part of the garrison, he resolved, from that moment, to consider the articles of the capitulation to be annulled by it. In consequence of this resolution, the General, with

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all his officers and men, were put under confinement, and stripped of all they possessed. After suffering the greatest indignities, they were sent, loaded with irons, to a fort up the country, where they endured a long and barbarous imprisonment. The fate of their unfortunate General has been variously reported: both he and several officers are said to have been put to death with circumstances of the greatest cruelty.

Immediately after the reduction of Bednure, Tippoo Saib appeared, with his vast army, before Mangalore, the recovery of which was the next great object of his wishes: the place was well commanded and well garrisoned; but the defences were in no degree worthy the defenders; so that it required all the abilities of Major Campbell, seconded by the approved valour of the 42d regiment, and supported by some brave battalions of sepoys, to supply the defects of the fortifications. While the place was completely invested by the Oriental troops, the operations of the siege were carried on by the French troops that had accompanied them from the Carnatic. In short, notwithstanding a most gallant defence was made by Major Campbell, his garrison was at length reduced to very great extremity; but they were fortunately relieved from the toils and dangers of their situation, by the news which arrived in the month of July of the general peace. This was a severe disappointment to Tippoo Saib, who had expected in a few days to have been master of Mangalore, when the French commander acquainted him, that his orders forbade him to act any longer against the English. The siege of Mangalore was then converted to a blockade, and though peace was in agitation, Tippoo used his utmost endeavours to starve them into a surrender; but the arrival of General Macleod, with a strong force from Bombay, upon the coast, obliged him, unwillingly, to consent to their receiving a supply.

No military event, of any consideration, afterwards took place on the Malabar coast.—Carwar, Onore, and some other forts, as well as Mangalore, still continued in the hands of the English, until, by the peace concluded between the Company and Tippoo Saib, in the following year, a general restitution of the conquests on both sides took place, and the tranquillity of India was, for the present, fully restored.

During these transactions on the coast of Malabar, various military operations were carrying on along the coast of Coromandel. From the time that Sir Eyre Coote left the command to General Stuart, to the end of the last year, this officer was employed in observing the motions of the enemy, and preventing them from becoming masters of several places at which their force was directed.

In the beginning of the season for action, the Governor and Council of Bengal determined to send an ample supply to the Presidency of Madras, in order to enable them to put a final and successful termination to the war, which Tippoo Saib seemed to possess an hereditary disposition to prosecute. Sir Eyre Coote, who had, for the benefit of his health, gone by sea to Bengal, was now entrusted by them with a large sum of money, with which he embarked for Madras: but when he had almost reached his destination, he found himself in danger of being taken by two French men of war; they chased him 48 hours,—during which time the solicitude and fatigue he under-went, in continuing almost the whole time upon deck, occasioned a relapse of his former illness. The ship and treasure got safe into Madras, but to the irreparable loss of the East India Company, as well as of his country, the General lived but two days after his arrival.

In the mean time, General Stuart seized the opportunity of Tippoo Saib's having quitted the Carnatic, to send Colonel Fullarton, with a considerable force, to invade the province of Coimbatour.

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1783 Coimbatour. The successes of this officer were great and rapid; but General Stuart, from the more important operations he had in view, was obliged to recal him in the midst of them.

Though the retreat of Tippoo Saib was an event of very great importance, the advantage was by no means complete while a powerful body of French troops remained in possession of Cuddalore, which being in the neighbourhood of Madras, the besieging it was considered as a necessary, though very hazardous measure, as much attention had been employed in fortifying it: General Stuart, however, determined to undertake it, and, on the 7th of June, he appeared before it. That officer made his attacks with great judgment, courage and perseverance; the garrison defended the town with great spirit, and the siege was attended with much bloodshed and slaughter to both armies.

While General Stuart pressed Cuddalore by land, Sir Edward Hughes lay off the harbour to cut off its communication by sea. This fleet had suffered a great diminution of men from the scurvy. The violence and contagion of the disorder had made it necessary to set numbers of them ashore for the preservation of their lives. In order, therefore, to give M. de Suffrein such a decisive superiority in point of men, as might enable him at once to board the British squadron, M. de Buffly, who commanded at Cuddalore, sent him 1,200 of his best troops.—Thus provided, it was expected that the French Admiral would not hesitate to close upon the English, who, though they had two ships of the line more than the enemy, were so weakly manned from the cause already assigned, that the real advantage lay entirely on the other side.

On the 20th of June, M. De Suffrein approached the British fleet in order of battle, and though the enemy had the wind in their favour, Sir Edward Hughes immediately brought to in order to receive them. About four o'clock in the afternoon the engagement began, and lasted till seven o'clock, when the French fleet hauled off, having preserved a most guarded distance during the whole of the combat. The enemy retired in the night to Pondicherry, whither Sir Edward Hughes followed them. On the 22d, he braved them during the day, and anchored in the evening within sight of them: but the want of water was now so extreme, and the number of sick and wounded so great, that the Admiral was under the necessity of proceeding to Madras, in order to land the one and to procure a supply of the other. The loss of men in the English fleet, in this engagement, amounted to 99 killed and 431 wounded; that of the enemy was considerably greater. This was the last battle between Sir Edward Hughes and M. de Suffrein, and concluded the naval operations between the English and French in the East Indies.

On the 25th of this month, the garrison of Cuddalore, which had been strengthened by a body of near 4,000 men from M. de Suffrein's squadron, made a most vigorous sally, which was repelled with the greatest bravery by the besiegers. In short, the contest appeared to have been proceeding in a manner that promised nothing but ruin to the parties engaged in it, when fortunately, to prevent the effusion of more human blood, the news of peace arrived at Madras, and on the 4th of July a cessation of hostilities was compleatly settled.

In the month of February, in this year, a treaty was signed between the Empress of Russia and the Queen of Portugal, as follows:

“Article I. Their Majesties the Empress of all the Russias and the Queen of Portugal, convinced of the solidity and forcible evidence of the principles laid down in the declaration bearing date the 28th of February 1780, concerning the armed neutrality, their above-said Majesties do declare, that they not only assent freely and fully to the said principles, but on
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all occasions will concur, by every efficacious means, to keep them up in their full force, and to take care that they be scrupulously adhered to.

“ II. Be it understood, that the present convention is not, by any means, to be construed as tending to annul the treaties now subsisting between the distinct powers of Russia or Portugal, or any other European court whatever; but, on the contrary, such treaties, and the stipulations therein made, will as fully bind the said powers as they did any time previous to the said convention, which is not to invalidate, much less to enforce a violation of the said treaties.

“ III. The two high contracting powers will continue to observe the most exact neutrality, and rigorously enforce the preventing of all prohibited trade being carried on by their respective subjects with the powers now at war. By prohibited trade is understood all those goods and merchandizes, verbatim expressed in the 10th and 11th articles of the treaty of commerce concluded between Russia and Great Britain, on the 20th of June, 1766.

“ IV. In case, notwithstanding all imaginable care to prevent it, the Russian or Portuguese merchantmen should be taken or insulted by ships belonging to any of the belligerent powers, the complaints of the aggrieved sovereign shall be supported and enforced by the other confederates most serious and urgent remonstrances: and if, contrary to all expectation, justice should be denied, the said high contracting powers will concert together on the means of obtaining redress by reprisals.

“ V. If it should so happen, that either or both of the said powers be attacked or molested, on account and in hatred of the present convention, they shall join together for a mutual defence, in order to procure themselves a full satisfaction, both to the insult offered to their flag and the damages sustained by their subjects.

“ VI. The present stipulation shall be permanent on both sides, and be adduced as a rule, whenever the right of neutrality shall be called in question.

“ VII. The two contracting powers will give notice, amicably, to the sovereigns now at war, of this present mutual agreement.

“ VIII. The present convention shall be ratified by the contracting powers, and the said ratifications interchanged within four months from the date hereof, or sooner if possible.

☞ They have been ratified since and exchanged.

“ In witness whereof, we, the plenipotentiaries, &c. have signed and sealed the present.

“ Given at Petersburg, February 1783.

(Signed,)

“ (L. S.) COMTE JOHN D'OSTERMAN.

“ (L. S.) ALEXANDER DE BEZBORODKO.

“ (L. S.) PIERRE DE BOCOUNIN.

“ (L. S.) FR. JOS. D'HORTA MACHADO.”

On the third day of April in this year, the following treaty of amity and commerce was signed at Paris, between the King of Sweden and the United States of North America.

“ Article I. There shall be a firm, inviolable and universal peace, and a true and sincere friendship between the King of Sweden, his heirs and successors, and the United States of America, and the subjects of his Majesty and those of the said States; and between the countries, islands, cities and towns, situated under the jurisdiction of the King and of the said United States, without any exception of persons or places; and the conditions agreed to in this present treaty, shall be perpetual and permanent between the King, his heirs and successors, and the United States.

“ II. The

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“ II. The King and the United States engage mutually not to grant hereafter any particular favour to other nations in respect to commerce and navigation, which shall not immediately become common to the other party, who shall enjoy the same favour freely, if the concession was freely made, or on allowing the same compensation, if the concession was conditional.

“ III. The subjects of the King of Sweden shall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, countries, islands, cities and towns of the United States, or any other nor greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, than those which the most favoured nations are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another of the United States, or in going to or from the same, from or to any part of the world whatever.

“ IV. The subjects and inhabitants of the said United States shall not pay in the ports, havens, roads, islands, cities and towns under the denomination of the King of Sweden, any other or greater duties or imposts, of what nature soever they may be, or by what name soever called, than those which the most favoured nations are or shall be obliged to pay; and they shall enjoy all the rights, liberties, privileges, immunities and exemptions in trade, navigation and commerce, which the said nations do or shall enjoy, whether in passing from one port to another of the dominion of his said Majesty, or in going to or from the same, from or to any part of the world whatever.

“ V. There shall be granted a full, perfect and entire liberty of conscience to the inhabitants and subjects of each party; and no person shall be molested on account of his worship, provided he submits so far as regards the public demonstration of it to the laws of the country: moreover, liberty shall be granted, when any of the subjects or inhabitants of either party die in the territory of the other, to bury them in convenient and decent places, which shall be assigned for the purpose: and the two contracting parties will provide, each in its jurisdiction, that the subjects and inhabitants respectively may obtain certificates of the death, in case the delivery of them is required.

“ VI. The subjects of the contracting parties in the respective states, may freely dispose of their goods and effects either by testament, donation or otherwise, in favour of such persons as they think proper; and their heirs in whatever place they shall reside, shall receive the succession even *ab intestato* either in person or by their attorney, without having occasion to take out letters of naturalization. Those inheritances, as well as the capitals and effects, which the subjects of the two parties, in changing their abode, shall be desirous of removing from the place of their abode, shall be exempted from all duty, called *droit de detraction*, on the part of the government of the two states respectively. But it is at the same time agreed, that nothing contained in this article shall in any manner derogate from the ordinances published in Sweden against emigrations, or which may hereafter be published, which shall remain in full force and vigour. The United States on their part, or any of them, shall be at liberty to make respecting this matter, such laws as they think proper.

“ VII. All and every the subjects, inhabitants of the kingdom of Sweden, as well as those of the United States, shall be permitted to navigate with their vessels in all safety and freedom, and without any regard to those to whom the merchandizes and cargoes may belong, from any port whatever, and the subjects and inhabitants of the two states shall likewise be permitted to sail and trade with their vessels, and with the same liberty and safety to frequent the places, ports and havens of powers, enemies to both or either of the two contracting parties, without

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being in any wise molested or troubled, and to carry on a commerce, not only directly from the ports of an enemy to a neutral port, but even from one port to another port of an enemy, whether it be under the jurisdiction of the same, or of different Princes. And as it is acknowledged by this treaty with respect to ships and merchandises, that free ships shall make the merchandizes free, and that every thing which shall be on board of ships belonging to subjects of the one or the other of the contracting parties, shall be considered as free, even though the cargo, or a part of it, should belong to the enemies of one or both; it is, nevertheless, provided, that contraband goods shall always be excepted; which being intercepted, shall be proceeded against according to the spirit of the following articles. It is likewise agreed, that the same liberty be extended to persons who may be on board of a free ship, with this effect, that although they be enemies to both or either of the parties, they shall not be taken out of the free ship, unless they are soldiers in the actual service of the said enemies.

“ VIII. This liberty of navigation and commerce shall extend to all kinds of merchandises, except those only which are expressed in the following articles, and are distinguished by the name of contraband goods.

“ IX. Under the name of contraband or prohibited goods, shall be comprehended arms, guns, cannon balls, arquebuses, musquets, bombs, petards, granadoes, sauciffes, pitch, balls, carriages for ordnance, musquet-rests, bandoliers, cannon powder, matches, saltpetre, sulphur, bullets, pikes, sabres, swords, morions, helmets, cutlasses, halberts, javelins, pistols, holsters, bayonets, belts, horses with their harness, and all other like kinds of arms and instruments of war for the use of troops.

“ X. These which follow shall not be reckoned in the number of prohibited goods; that is to say, all sorts of clothes, and all other manufactures of wool, flax, silk, cotton, or any other materials, all kinds of wearing apparel, together with the things of which they are commonly made; gold and silver coined or uncoined, brass, iron, lead, copper, latten, coals, wheat, barley, and all sorts of corn or pulse, tobacco, all kinds of spices, salted or smoked fish, salted fish, cheese, butter, beer, oil, wines, sugar, all sorts of salt, and provisions which serve for the nourishment and subsistence of man; all kinds of cotton, hemp, flax, tar, pitch, ropes, cables, sail cloth, anchors, and any part of anchors, ship masts, planks, boards, beams, and all sorts of trees, and other things proper for building or repairing ships; nor shall any goods be considered as contraband, which have not been worked into the form of any instrument or thing for the purpose of war, by sea or by land, much less such as have been prepared or wrought up for any other use. All which shall be reckoned free goods, as likewise all others which are not comprehended and particularly mentioned in the foregoing articles; so that they shall not, by any pretended interpretation, be comprehended among prohibited or contraband goods; on the contrary, they may be freely transported by the subjects of the King and the United States, even to places belonging to an enemy, such places only excepted as are besieged, blocked, or invested; and those places only shall be considered as such which are nearly surrounded by one of the belligerent powers.

“ XI. In order to avoid and prevent, on both sides, all disputes and discord, it is agreed, that in case one of the parties shall be engaged in a war, the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects or inhabitants of the other, shall be furnished with sea-letters or passports, expressing the name, property, and port of the vessel, and also the name and place of abode of the master or commander of the said vessel, in order that it may thereby appear, that the said vessel really and truly belongs to the subjects of the one or the other party. These passports, which shall be

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“ XII. Although the vessels of the one and the other party may navigate freely, and with all safety, as is explained in the seventh article, they shall, nevertheless, be bound at all times, when required, to exhibit, as well on the high seas as in port, their passports and certificates above-mentioned: and, not having contraband merchandize on board for an enemy's port, they may freely, and without hinderance, pursue their voyage to the place of their destination. Nevertheless, the exhibition of the papers shall not be demanded of merchant ships under the convoy of vessels of war, but credit shall be given to the word of the officer commanding the convoy.

“ XIII. If, on producing the said certificates, it be discovered that the vessel carries some of the goods which are declared to be prohibited or contraband, and which are consigned to an enemy's port, it shall not, however, be lawful to break up the hatches of such ships, nor to open any chest, coffers, packs, casks, or vessels, nor to remove or displace the smallest part of the merchandizes, until the cargo has been landed in the presence of officers appointed for the purpose, and until an inventory thereof has been taken; nor shall it be lawful to sell, exchange, or alienate the cargo, or any part thereof, until legal process shall have been had against the prohibited merchandizes, and sentence shall have passed, declaring them liable to confiscation; saving, nevertheless, as well the ships themselves, as the other merchandizes which shall have been found therein, which, by virtue of this present treaty, are to be esteemed free, and which are not to be detained on pretence of their having been loaded with prohibited merchandize, and much less confiscated as lawful prize. And in case the contraband merchandize be only a part of the cargo, and the master of the vessel agrees, consents, and offers to deliver them to the vessel that has discovered them, in that case, the latter, after receiving the merchandizes which are good prize, shall immediately let the vessel go, and shall not, by any means, hinder her from pursuing her voyage to the place of her destination. When a vessel is taken and brought into any of the ports of the contracting parties, if, upon examination, she be found to be loaded only with merchandize declared to be free, the owner, or he who has made the prize, shall be bound to pay all costs and damages to the master of the vessel unjustly detained.

“ XIV. It is likewise agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the subjects of either of the two contracting parties on a ship belonging to the enemies of the other party, the whole effects, although not of the number of those declared contraband, shall be confiscated as if they belonged to the enemy; excepting, nevertheless, such goods and merchandizes as were put on board before the declaration of war, and even six months after the declaration, after which term none shall be presumed to be ignorant of it, which merchandizes shall not, in any manner, be subject to confiscation, but shall be faithfully and specifically delivered to the owners who shall claim, or cause them to be claimed, before confiscation and sale, as also their proceeds, if the claim be made within eight months, and could not be made sooner, after the sale, which is to be made public: provided, nevertheless, that if the said merchandizes be contraband,

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“ XV. And that more effectual care may be taken for the security of the two contracting parties, that they suffer no prejudice by the men of war of the other party, or by privateers, all captains and commanders of ships of his Swedish Majesty, and of the United States, and all their subjects, shall be forbidden to do any injury or damage to those of the other party; and if they act to the contrary, having been found guilty on their examination by their proper judges, they shall be bound to make satisfaction for all damages, and the interest thereof, and to make them good, under pain and obligation of their persons and goods.

“ XVI. For this cause, every individual who is desirous of fitting out a privateer, shall, before he receives letters-patent or special commission, be obliged to give bond, with sufficient sureties, before a competent judge, for a sufficient sum to answer all damages and wrongs which the owner of the privateer, his officers, or others in his employ may commit during the cruize, contrary to the tenor of this treaty, and contrary to the edicts published by either party, whether by the King of Sweden or by the United States, in virtue of this same treaty, and also under penalty of having the said letters-patent and special commission revoked and made void.

“ XVII. One of the contracting parties being at war, and the other remaining neuter, if it should so happen that a merchant ship of the neutral power be taken by the enemy of the other party, and be afterwards retaken by a ship of war or privateer of the power at war; also ships and merchandize, of what nature soever they may be, when recovered from a pirate or sea-rover, shall be brought into a port of one of the two powers, and shall be committed in the custody of the officers of the said port, that they may be restored entire to the true proprietor, as soon as he shall have produced full proof of the property. Merchants, masters, and owners of the ships, seamen, people of all sorts, ships, and vessels, and, in general, all merchandizes and effects of one of the allies or their subjects, shall not be subject to embargo, nor detained in any of the countries, territories, islands, cities, towns, ports, rivers, or domains whatever of the other ally, on account of any military expedition, or any public or private purpose whatever, by seizure, by force, or by any such manner; much less shall it be lawful for the subjects of one of the parties to seize or take any thing by force from the subjects of the other party without the consent of the owner. This, however, is not understood to comprehend seizures, detentions, and arrests, made by order and by the authority of justice, and according to the ordinary course for debts or faults of the subject, for which process shall be had in the way of right, according to the forms of justice.

“ XVIII. If it should happen that the two contracting parties should be engaged in a war at the same time with a common enemy, the following points shall be observed on both sides:

“ 1. If the ships of one of the two nations retaken by the privateers of the other, have not been in the power of the enemy more than twenty-four hours, they shall be restored to the original owner, on payment of one-third of the value of the ship and cargo. If, on the contrary, the vessel retaken has been more than twenty-four hours in the power of the enemy, it shall belong wholly to him who has retaken it.

“ 2. In case, during the interval of twenty-four hours, a vessel be retaken by a man of war of either of the two parties, it shall be restored to the original owner, on payment of a thirtieth part of the value of the vessel and cargo, and a tenth part, if it has been retaken after the twenty-four hours; which sums shall be distributed as a gratification among the crew of the man of war that shall have made the re-capture.

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1783 " 3. The prize made in manner above-mentioned, shall be restored to the owners, after proof made of the property, upon giving security for the part coming to him who has recovered the vessel from the hands of the enemy.

" 4. The men of war and privateers of the two nations, shall reciprocally be admitted with their prizes into each others ports; but the prizes shall not be unloaded or sold there, until the legality of a prize made by the Swedish ships shall have been determined according to the laws and regulations established in Sweden, as also that of the prizes made by the American vessels shall have been determined according to the laws and regulations established by the United States of America.

" 5. Moreover, the King of Sweden and the United States of America, shall be at liberty to make such regulations as they shall judge necessary respecting the conduct which their men of war and privateers respectively shall be bound to observe with regard to vessels which they shall take and carry into the ports of the two powers.

" XIX. The ships of war of his Swedish Majesty, and those of the United States, and also those which their subjects shall have armed for war, may with all freedom conduct their prizes which they shall have made from their enemies, into the ports which are open in time of war to other friendly nations; and the said prizes, upon entering the said ports, shall not be subject to arrest or seizure, nor shall the officers of the places take cognizance of the validity of the said prizes, which may depart and be conducted freely, and with all liberty, to the places pointed out in their commissions, which the captains of the said vessels shall be obliged to shew.

" XX. In case any vessel belonging to either of the two states, or to their subjects, shall be stranded, shipwrecked, or suffer any other damage on the coasts, or under the dominion of either of the parties, all aid and assistance shall be given to the persons shipwrecked, or who may be in danger thereof, and passports shall be granted to them, to secure their return to their own country. The ships and merchandizes wrecked, or their proceeds, if the effects have been sold, being claimed in a year and a day by the owners or their attorney, shall be restored, on their paying the costs of salvage, conformable to the laws and customs of the two nations.

" XXI. When the subjects and inhabitants of the two parties, with their vessels, whether they be public, and equipped for war, or private, employed in commerce, shall be forced by tempest, by pursuit of privateers and of enemies, or by any other urgent necessity, to retire into and enter any of the rivers, bays, roads, or ports of either of the two parties, they shall be received and treated with all humanity and politeness, and they shall enjoy all friendship, protection, and assistance, and they shall be at liberty to supply themselves with refreshments, provisions, and every thing necessary for their sustenance, for the repair of their vessels, and for continuing their voyage; provided always, that they pay a reasonable price: and they shall not, in any manner, be detained or hindered from sailing out of the said ports or roads, but they may retire and depart when, and as they please, without any obstacle or hinderance.

" XXII. In order to favour commerce on both sides as much as possible, it is agreed, that in case a war should break out between the said two nations, (which, God forbid!) the term of nine months after the declaration of war, shall be allowed to the merchants and subjects respectively on one side and the other, in order that they may withdraw with their effects and moveables, which they shall be at liberty to carry off or sell where they please, without the least

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1783 obstacle; nor shall any seize their effects, and much less their persons, during the said nine months; but, on the contrary, passports which shall be valid for a time necessary for their return, shall be given them for their vessels and the effects which they shall be willing to carry with them: and if any thing is taken from them, or if any injury is done to them by one of the parties, their people and subjects, during the term above described, full and entire satisfaction shall be made to them on that account. The above-mentioned passports shall also serve as a safe-conduct against all insults or prizes which privateers may attempt against their persons and effects.

“ XXIII. No subject of the King of Sweden shall take a commission or letters of marque for arming any vessel to act as a privateer against the United States of America, or any of them, or against the subjects, people, or inhabitants of the said United States, or any of them, or against the property of the inhabitants of the said States, from any prince or state whatever, with whom the said United States shall be at war. Nor shall any citizen, subject, or inhabitant of the said United States, or any of them, apply for, or take any commission or letters of marque for arming any vessel to cruise against the subjects of his Swedish Majesty, or any of them, or their property, from any prince or state whatever, with whom his said Majesty shall be at war. And if any person of either nation shall take such commission or letters of marque, he shall be punished as a pirate.

“ XXIV. The vessels of the subjects of either of the parties coming upon any of the coasts belonging to the other, but not willing to enter into port, or being entered into port, and not willing to unload their cargoes, or to break bulk, shall not be obliged to do it; but, on the contrary, shall enjoy all the franchises and exemptions which are granted by the rules subsisting with respect to that object.

“ XXV. When a vessel belonging to the subjects and inhabitants of either of the parties, sailing on the high sea, shall be met by a ship of war or privateer of the other, the said ship of war and privateer, to avoid all disorder, shall remain out of cannon-shot, but may always send their boat to the merchant ship, and cause two or three men to go on board of her, to whom the master or commander of the said vessel shall exhibit his passport, stating the property of the vessel, and when the said vessel shall have exhibited her passport, she shall be at liberty to continue her voyage, and it shall not be lawful to molest or search her in any manner, or to give her chase, or force her to quit her intended course.

“ XXVI. The two contracting parties grant mutually the liberty of having each in the ports of the other, consuls, vice-consuls, agents, and commissaries, whose functions shall be regulated by a particular agreement.

“ XXVII. The present treaty shall be ratified on both sides, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in the space of eight months, or sooner, if possible, counting from the day of the signature.

“ In faith whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the above articles, and have thereunto affixed their seals.

“ Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed)

“ (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.

“ (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

SEPARATE

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S E P A R A T E A R T I C L E.

“ The King of Sweden and the United States of North America agree, that the present treaty shall have its full effect for the space of fifteen years, counting from the day of the ratification ; and the two contracting parties reserve to themselves the liberty of renewing it at the end of that term.

“ Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed)

“ (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.

“ (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

S E P A R A T E A R T I C L E S.

Article I. His Swedish Majesty shall use all the means in his power to protect and defend the vessels and effects belonging to citizens or inhabitants of the United States of North America, and every one of them which shall be in the ports, havens, roads, or in the seas near the countries, islands, cities, and towns of his said Majesty, and shall use his utmost endeavours to recover and restore to the right owner, all such vessels and effects which shall be taken from them within his jurisdiction.

“ II. In like manner, the United States of North America shall protect and defend the vessels and effects belonging to the subjects of his Swedish Majesty, which shall be in the ports, havens, or roads, or on the seas near to the countries, islands, cities, and towns of the said States, and shall use their utmost efforts to recover and restore to the right owner, all such vessels and effects which shall be taken from them within their jurisdiction.

“ III. If, in any future war at sea, the contracting powers resolve to remain neuter, and, as such, to observe the strictest neutrality, then it is agreed, that if the merchant ships of either party should happen to be in a part of the sea where the ships of war of the said nation are not stationed, or if they are met on the high sea, without being able to have recourse to their own convoys, in that case, the commander of the ships of war of the other party, if required, shall, in good faith and sincerity, give them all necessary assistance ; and, in such case, the ships of war and frigates of either of the powers, shall protect and support the merchant ships of the other : provided, nevertheless, that the ships claiming assistance are not engaged in any illicit commerce, contrary to the principles of the neutrality.

“ IV. It is agreed and concluded, that all merchants, captains of merchant ships, or other subjects of his Swedish Majesty, shall have full liberty, in all places under the dominion or jurisdiction of the United States of America, to manage their own affairs, and to employ in the management of them whomsoever they please ; and they shall not be obliged to make use of any interpreter or broker, nor to pay them any reward unless they make use of them.— Moreover, the masters of the ships shall not be obliged, in loading or unloading their vessels, to employ labourers appointed by public authority for that purpose ; but they shall be at full liberty themselves to load or unload their vessels, or employ in loading or unloading them whomsoever they think proper, without paying reward, under the title of salary, to any other person whatever : and they shall not be obliged to turn over any kind of merchandizes to other vessels, nor to receive them on board their own, nor to wait for their lading longer than they please ; and all and every of the citizens, people, and inhabitants of the United States of America, shall reciprocally have and enjoy the same privileges and liberties in all places under the jurisdiction of the said realm.

“ V. It is agreed, that when merchandizes shall have been put on board the ships or vessels of either of the contracting parties, they shall not be subjected to any examination ; but

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all examination and search must be before lading, and the prohibited merchandizes must be stopped on the spot before they are embarked, unless there is full evidence or proof of fraudulent practice on the part of the owner of the ship, or of him who has the command of her: in which case, only he shall be responsible and subject to the laws of the country in which he may be. In all other cases, neither the subjects of either of the contracting parties, who shall be with their vessels in the ports of the other, nor their merchandizes, shall be seized or molested on account of contraband goods which they shall have wanted to take on board, nor shall any kind of embargo be laid on their ships, subjects, or citizens of the state, whose merchandizes are declared contraband, or the exportation of which is forbidden, those only who shall have sold, or intended to sell or alienate such merchandizes, being liable to punishment for such contravention.

“ Done at Paris, the 3d day of April, in the year of our Lord 1783.

(Signed)

“ (L. S.) GUSTAV. PHILIP COMTE DE CREUTZ.

“ (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

The following definitive treaties between his Britannic Majesty and the respective powers therein named, were signed at Versailles and Paris on the 3d of September in this year:—

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between his Britannic Majesty and the Most Christian King.

“ Article I. There shall be a Christian, universal, and perpetual peace, as well by sea as by land, and a sincere and constant friendship shall be re-established between their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties, and between their heirs and successors, kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, subjects, and vassals, of what quality and condition soever they be, without exception either of places or persons; so that the high contracting parties shall give the greatest attention to the maintaining between themselves, and their said dominions and subjects, this reciprocal friendship and intercourse, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hostilities to be committed, either by sea or by land, for any cause, or under any pretence whatsoever: and they shall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-established; endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occasion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, interests, or advantage, without giving any assistance or protection, directly or indirectly, to those who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties. There shall be a general oblivion and amnesty of every thing which may have been done or committed before or since the commencement of the war which is just ended.

“ II. The treaties of Westphalia, of 1648; the treaties of Nimeguen, of 1678 and 1679; of Ryswick, of 1697; those of peace and commerce of Utrecht, of 1713; of Baden, of 1714; of the triple alliance of the Hague, of 1717; that of the quadruple alliance of London, of 1718; the treaty of peace of Vienna, of 1738; the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, of 1748; and that of Paris, of 1763, serve as a basis and foundation to the peace, and to the present treaty; and, for this purpose, they are all renewed and confirmed in the best form, as well as all the treaties in general which subsisted between the high contracting parties before the war, as if they were herein inserted word for word; so that they are to be exactly observed, for the future, in their full tenor, and religiously executed by both parties, in all the points which shall not be derogated from by the present treaty of peace.

“ III. All the prisoners taken on either side, as well by land as by sea, and the hostages carried away or given during the war, and to this day, shall be restored, without ransom, in

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1783 six weeks, at latest, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty; each crown respectively discharging the advances which shall have been made for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners by the sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained, according to the receipts and attested accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which shall be furnished on each side: and sureties shall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the prisoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained, until their entire release. And all ships, as well men of war as merchant ships, which may have been taken since the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the cessation of hostilities by sea, shall likewise be restored, *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes. And the execution of this article shall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

“ IV. His Majesty the King of Great Britain is maintained in his right to the island of Newfoundland, and to the adjacent islands, as the whole were assured to him by the thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht; excepting the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which are ceded in full right by the present treaty to his Most Christian Majesty.

“ V. His Majesty the Most Christian King, in order to prevent the quarrels which have hitherto arisen between the two nations of England and France, consented to renounce the right of fishing, which belongs to him in virtue of the aforesaid article of the treaty of Utrecht, from Cape Bonavista to Cape St. John, situated on the eastern coast of Newfoundland, in 50 degrees north latitude; and his Majesty the King of Great Britain consents, on his part, that the fishery assigned to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, beginning at the said Cape St. John, passing to the north, and descending by the western coast of the island of Newfoundland, shall extend to the place called Cape Ray, situated in 47 degrees 50 minutes north latitude. The French fishermen shall enjoy the fishery which is assigned to them by the present article, as they had the right to enjoy that which was assigned to them by the treaty of Utrecht.

“ VI. With regard to the fishery in the Gulf of St. Laurence, the French shall continue to exercise it conformably to the fifth article of the treaty of Paris.

“ VII. The King of Great Britain restores to France the island of St. Lucia, in the condition it was in when it was conquered by the British arms: and his Britannic Majesty cedes and guaranties to his Most Christian Majesty the island of Tobago. The Protestant inhabitants of the said island, as well as those of the same religion who have settled at St. Lucia whilst that island was occupied by the British arms, shall not be molested in the exercise of their worship: and the British inhabitants, or others who may have been subjects of the King of Great Britain in the aforesaid islands, shall retain their possessions upon the same titles and conditions by which they have acquired them; or else they may retire in full security and liberty where they shall think fit, and shall have the power of selling their estates, provided it be to subjects of his Most Christian Majesty, and of removing their effects, as well as their persons, without being restrained in their emigration, under any pretence whatsoever, except on account of debts, or of criminal prosecutions. The term limited for this emigration, is fixed to the space of eighteen months, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty. And for the better securing the possessions of the inhabitants of the aforesaid island of Tobago, the Most Christian King shall issue letters-patent, containing an abolition of the *Droit D'Aubaine* in the said island.

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“ VIII. The Most Christian King restores to Great Britain the islands of Grenada and the Grenadines, St. Vincent's, Domiica, St. Christopher's, Nevis, and Montserrat; and the fortresses of these islands shall be delivered up in the condition they were in when the conquest of them was made. The same stipulations inserted in the preceding article, shall take place in favour of the French subjects, with respect to the islands enumerated in the present article.

“ IX. The King of Great Britain cedes, in full right, and guaranties to his Most Christian Majesty, the river Senegal and its dependencies, with the forts of St. Louis, Podor, Galam, Arguin, and Portendic; and his Britannic Majesty restores to France the island of Goree, which shall be delivered up in the condition it was in when the conquest of it was made.

“ X. The Most Christian King, on his part, guaranties to the King of Great Britain the possession of Fort James, and of the river Gambia.

“ XI. For preventing all discussion in that part of the world, the two high contracting parties shall, within three months after the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty, name commissioners, who shall be charged with the settling and fixing of the boundaries of the respective possessions. As to the gum trade, the English shall have the liberty of carrying it on from the mouth of the river St. John, to the bay and fort of Portendic inclusively: provided that they shall not form any permanent settlement, of what nature soever, in the said river St. John, upon the coast, or in the bay of Portendic.

“ XII. As to the residue of the coast of Africa, the English and French subjects shall continue to resort thereto according to the usage which has hitherto prevailed.

“ XIII. The King of Great Britain restores to his Most Christian Majesty all the settlements which belonged at the beginning of the present war upon the coast of Orixá and in Bengal, with liberty to surround Chandernagore with a ditch, for carrying off the waters: and his Britannic Majesty engages to take such measures as shall be in his power for securing to the subjects of France in that part of India, as well as on the coasts of Orixá, Coromandel, and Malabar, a safe, free, and independent trade, such as was carried on by the French East India Company, whether they exercise it individually, or united in a company.

“ XIV. Pondicherry shall be, in like manner, delivered up and guarantied to France, as also Karical: and his Britannic Majesty shall procure, for an additional dependency to Pondicherry, the two districts of Valanour and Bahour; and to Karical, the four Magans bordering thereupon.

“ XV. France shall re-enter into the possession of Mahe, as well as of its factory at Surat; and the French shall carry on their trade in this part of India conformable to the principles established in the thirteenth article of this treaty.

“ XVI. Orders having been sent to India by the high contracting parties, in pursuance of the sixteenth article of the preliminaries, it is farther agreed, that if, within the term of four months, the respective allies of their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties shall not have acceded to the present pacification, or concluded a separate accommodation, their said Majesties shall not give them any assistance, directly or indirectly, against the British or French possessions, or against the ancient possessions of their respective allies, such as they were in the year 1776.

“ XVII. The King of Great Britain, being desirous to give his Most Christian Majesty a sincere proof of reconciliation and friendship, and to contribute to render solid the peace re-

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1783 established between their said Majesties, consents to the abrogation and suppression of all the articles relative to Dunkirk, from the treaty of peace concluded at Utrecht in 1713, inclusive, to this day.

“XVIII. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications, the two high contracting parties shall name commissaries to treat concerning new arrangements of commerce between the two nations, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which arrangements shall be settled and concluded within the space of two years, to be computed from the 1st of January, in the year 1784.

“XIX. All the countries and territories which may have been, or which may be conquered in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, as well as by those of his Most Christian Majesty, which are not included in the present treaty, neither under the head of cessions, nor under the head of restitutions, shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

“XX. As it is necessary to appoint a certain period for the restitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the King of Great Britain shall cause to be evacuated the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon three months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done; St. Lucia, one of the Carribbee islands, and Goree, in Africa, three months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done. The King of Great Britain shall, in like manner, at the end of three months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done, enter again into the possession of the islands of Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Vincent, Dominica, St. Christopher, Nevis and Montserrat. France shall be put in possession of the towns and factories which are restored to her in the East Indies, and of the territories which are procured for her to serve as additional dependencies to Pondicherry and to Karical, six months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done. France shall deliver up, at the end of the like term of six months, the towns and territories which her arms may have taken from the English, or their allies, in the East Indies. In consequence whereof, the necessary orders shall be sent by each of the high contracting parties, with reciprocal passports for the ships which shall carry them, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty.

“XXI. The decision of the prizes and seizures made prior to the hostilities, shall be referred to the respective courts of justice; so that the legality of the said prizes and seizures shall be decided according to the law of nations, and to treaties, in the courts of justice of the nation which shall have made the captures or ordered the seizures.

“XXII. For preventing the revival of the lawsuits which have been ended in the islands conquered by either of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the judgments pronounced in the last resort, and which have acquired the force of matters determined, shall be confirmed and executed according to their form and tenor.

“XXIII. Their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties promise to observe sincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and established in the present treaty; and they will not suffer the same to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their respective subjects: and the said high contracting parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the stipulations of the present treaty.

“XXIV. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, prepared in good and due form, shall be exchanged in this city of Versailles, between the high contracting parties, in the space

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1783 of a month, or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty.

"In witness whereof, we, the under-written ambassador extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, have signed with our hands, in their names, and in virtue of our respective full powers, the present definitive treaty, and have caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at Versailles, the 3d day of September, 1783.

(L. S.) MANCHESTER.

(L. S.) GRAVIER DE VERGENNES."

DECLARATION.

"The King having entirely agreed with his Most Christian Majesty upon the articles of the definitive treaty, will seek every means which shall not only insure the execution thereof, with his accustomed good faith and punctuality, but will besides give, on his part, all possible efficacy to the principles which shall prevent even the least foundation of dispute for the future.

"To this end, and in order that the fishermen of the two nations may not give cause for daily quarrels, his Britannic Majesty will take the most positive measures for preventing his subjects from interrupting, in any manner, by their competition, the fishery of the French during the temporary exercise of it, which is granted to them upon the coasts of the island of Newfoundland; and he will, for this purpose, cause the fixed settlements, which shall be formed there, to be removed. His Britannic Majesty will give orders, that the French fishermen be not incommoded in cutting the wood necessary for the repair of their scaffolds, huts, and fishing vessels.

"The thirteenth article of the treaty of Utrecht, and the method of carrying on the fishery which has at all times been acknowledged, shall be the plan upon which the fishery shall be carried on there; it shall not be deviated from by either party; the French fishermen building only their scaffolds, confining themselves to the repair of their fishing vessels, and not wintering there; the subjects of his Britannic Majesty, on their part, not molesting, in any manner, the French fishermen during their fishing, nor injuring their scaffolds during their absence.

"The King of Great Britain, in ceding the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon to France, regards them as ceded for the purpose of serving as a real shelter to the French fishermen, and in full confidence that these possessions will not become an object of jealousy between the two nations; and that the fishery between the said islands and that of Newfoundland, shall be limited to the middle of the Channel.

"With regard to India, Great Britain having granted to France every thing that can ascertain and confirm the trade which the latter requires to carry on there, his Majesty relies with confidence on the repeated assurances of the court of Versailles, that the power of surrounding Chandernagore with a ditch for carrying off the waters, shall not be exercised in such a manner as to make it become an object of umbrage.

"The new state in which commerce may perhaps be found, in all parts of the world, will demand revisions and explanations of the subsisting treaties; but an entire abrogation of those treaties, in whatever period it might be, would throw commerce into such confusion as would be of infinite prejudice to it.

"In some of the treaties of this sort there are not only articles which relate merely to commerce, but many others which ensue reciprocally, to the respective subjects, privileges, facilities

1783 lities for conducting their affairs, personal protections, and other advantages, which are not, and which ought not to be of a changeable nature, such as the regulations relating merely to the value of goods and merchandizes, variable from circumstances of every kind.

“When, therefore, the state of the trade between the two nations shall be treated upon, it is requisite to be understood, that the alterations which may be made in the subsisting treaties are to extend only to the arrangements merely commercial; and that the privileges and advantages, mutual and particular, be not only preserved on each side, but even augmented, if it can be done.

“In this view, his Majesty has consented to the appointment of commissioners on each side, who shall treat solely upon this object.

“In witness whereof, we, his Britannic Majesty’s ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, being thereto duly authorised, have signed the present declaration and caused the seal of our arms to be set thereto.

“Given at Versailles, the third of September, 1783.

“(L. S.) MANCHESTER.”

COUNTER-DECLARATION.

“The principles which have guided the King, in the whole course of the negotiations which preceded the re-establishment of peace, must have convinced the King of Great Britain, that his Majesty has had no other design than to render it solid and lasting, by preventing, as much as possible, in the four quarters of the world, every subject of discussion and quarrel. The King of Great Britain undoubtedly places too much confidence in the uprightness of his Majesty’s intentions, not to rely upon his constant attention to prevent the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon from becoming an object of jealousy between the two nations.

“As to the fishery on the coasts of Newfoundland, which has been the object of the new arrangements settled by the two sovereigns upon this matter, it is sufficiently ascertained by the fifth article of the treaty of peace signed this day, and by the declaration likewise delivered to day, by his Britannic Majesty’s ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and his Majesty declares, that he is fully satisfied on this head.

“In regard to the fishery between the island of Newfoundland, and those of St. Pierre and Miquelon, it is not to be carried on by either party, but to the middle of the channel; and his Majesty will give the most positive orders, that the French fishermen shall not go beyond this line. His Majesty is firmly persuaded that the King of Great Britain will give like orders to the English fishermen.

“The King’s desire to maintain the peace, comprehends India as well as the other parts of the world; his Britannic Majesty may therefore be assured, that his Majesty will never permit that an object so inoffensive and so harmless as the ditch with which Chandernagore is to be surrounded, should give any umbrage to the court of London.

“The King, in proposing new arrangements of commerce, had no other design than to remedy, by the rules of reciprocity and mutual convenience, whatever may be defective in the treaty of commerce signed at Utrecht, in 1713. The King of Great Britain may judge from thence, that his Majesty’s intention is not in any wise to cancel all the stipulations in the above-mentioned treaty; he declares, on the contrary, from henceforth, that he is disposed to maintain all the privileges, facilities and advantages expressed in that treaty, as far as they shall be reciprocal, or compensated by equivalent advantages. It is to attain this end, desired

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1783 on each side, that commissaries are to be appointed to treat upon the state of the trade between the two nations, and that a considerable space of time is to be allowed for compleating their work. His Majesty hopes that this object will be pursued with the same good faith, and the same spirit of conciliation, which presided over the discussion of the other points comprised in the definitive treaty; and his said Majesty is firmly persuaded, that the respective commissaries will employ the utmost diligence for the completion of this important work.

“ In witness whereof, we, the under-written minister plenipotentiary of his Most Christian Majesty, being thereto duly authorised, have signed the present counter-declaration, and have caused the seal of our arms to be affixed thereto.

“ Given at Versailles the 3d of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) GRAVIER DE VERGENNE S.”

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Spain.

“ Article I. There shall be a Christian, universal and perpetual peace, as well by sea as by land, and a sincere and constant friendship shall be re-established, between their Britannic and Catholic Majesties, and between their heirs and successors, kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, subjects and vassals, of what quality or condition soever they be, without exception either of places or persons; so that the high contracting parties shall give the greatest attention to the maintaining between themselves and their said dominions and subjects, this reciprocal friendship and intercourse, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hostilities to be committed, either by sea or by land, for any cause or under any pretence whatsoever: and they shall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-established, endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occasion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, interests and advantage, without giving any assistance or protection, directly or indirectly, to those who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties. There shall be a general oblivion and amnesty of every thing which may have been done or committed, before or since the commencement of the war which is just ended.

“ II. The treaties of Westphalia of 1648; those of Madrid of 1667 and of 1670; those of peace and of commerce of Utrecht of 1713; that of Baden of 1714; of Madrid of 1715; of Seville of 1729; the definitive treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1748; the treaty of Madrid of 1750; and the definitive treaty of Paris of 1763, serve as a basis and foundation to the peace, and to the present treaty; and for this purpose, they are all renewed and confirmed, in the best form, as well as all the treaties in general which subsisted between the high contracting parties before the war, and particularly all those which are specified and renewed in the afore-said definitive treaty of Paris, in the best form, and as if they were herein inserted word for word; so that they are to be exactly observed for the future in their full tenor, and religiously executed, by both parties, in all the points which shall not be derogated from by the present treaty of peace.

“ III. All the prisoners taken on either side, as well by land as by sea, and the hostages carried away or given, during the war, and to this day, shall be restored without ransom, in six weeks at latest, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the present treaty; each crown respectively discharging the advances which shall have been made for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners, by the sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained,

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1783 tained, according to the receipts, attested accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which shall be furnished on either side; and sureties shall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the prisoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained, until their entire release. And all ships, as well men of war as merchant ships, which may have been taken since the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the cessation of hostilities by sea, shall likewise be restored, *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes. And the execution of this article shall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

“ IV. The King of Great Britain cedes, in full right, to his Catholic Majesty, the island of Minorca. Provided that the same stipulations inserted in the following article shall take place in favour of the British subjects, with regard to the above-mentioned island.

“ V. His Britannic Majesty cedes and guaranties, in full right to his Catholic Majesty, East Florida, as also West Florida. His Catholic Majesty agrees that the British inhabitants, or others who may have been subjects of the King of Great Britain in the said countries, may retire in full security and liberty, where they shall think proper, and may sell their estates, and remove their effects, as well as their persons, without being restrained in their emigration, under any pretence whatsoever, except on account of debts or criminal prosecutions; the term limited for this emigration being fixed to the space of eighteen months, to be computed from the day of the exchange of the ratifications of the present treaty; but if, from the value of the possessions of the English proprietors, they shall not be able to dispose of them within the said term, then his Catholic Majesty shall grant them a prolongation proportioned to that end. It is further stipulated, that his Britannic Majesty shall have the power of removing from East Florida all the effects which may belong to him, whether artillery or other matters.

“ VI. The intention of the two high contracting parties being to prevent, as much as possible, all the causes of complaint and misunderstanding heretofore occasioned by the cutting of wood for dying, or logwood; and several English settlements having been formed and extended under that pretence, upon the Spanish continent; it is expressly agreed, that his Britannic Majesty's subjects shall have the right of cutting, loading and carrying away logwood, in the district lying between the rivers Wallis or Bellize, and Rio Hondo, taking the course of the said two rivers for unalterable boundaries, so as that the navigation of them be common to both nations, to wit, by the river Wallis or Bellize, from the sea, ascending as far as opposite to a lake or inlet which runs into the land, and forms an isthmus or neck, with another smaller inlet, which comes from the side of Rio Neuvo, or New River; so that the line of separation shall pass strait across the said isthmus, and meet another lake formed by the water of Rio Neuvo, or New River, at its current. The said line shall continue with the course of Rio Neuvo, descending as far as opposite to a river, the source of which is marked in the map, between Rio Neuvo and Rio Hondo, and which empties itself into Rio Hondo; which river shall also serve as a common boundary as far as its junction with Rio Hondo; and from thence descending by Rio Hondo to the sea, as the whole is marked on the map which the plenipotentiaries of the two crowns have thought proper to make use of, for ascertaining the points agreed upon, to the end that a good correspondence may reign between the two nations, and that the English workmen, cutters and labourers may not trespass from an uncertainty of the boundaries. The respective commissaries shall fix upon convenient places, in the territory above marked out, in order that his Britannic Majesty's subjects employed in the felling of logwood, may, without interruption, build therein houses and magazines necessary for themselves,

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1783 selves, their families, and their effects; and his Catholic Majesty assures to them the enjoyment of all that is expressed in the present article; provided that these stipulations shall not be considered as derogating in any wise from his rights of sovereignty. Therefore all the English who may be dispersed in any other parts, whether on the Spanish continent, or in any of the islands whatsoever, dependent on the aforesaid Spanish continent, and for whatever reason it might be, without exception, shall retire within the district which has been above described, in the space of eighteen months, to be computed from the exchange of the ratifications; and for this purpose orders shall be issued on the part of his Britannic Majesty; and on that of his Catholic Majesty, his governors shall be ordered to grant to the English, dispersed, every convenience possible for their removing to the settlement agreed upon by the present article, or for retiring wherever they shall think proper. It is likewise stipulated, that if any fortifications should actually have been heretofore erected within the limits marked out, his Britannic Majesty shall cause them all to be demolished; and he will order his subjects not to build any new ones. The English inhabitants who shall settle there for the cutting of logwood, shall be permitted to enjoy a free fishery for their subsistence, on the coasts of the district above agreed on, or of the islands situated opposite thereto, without being in any wise disturbed on that account; provided they do not establish themselves, in any manner on the said islands.

“VII. His Catholic Majesty shall restore to Great Britain, the islands of Providence, and the Bahamas, without exception, in the same condition they were in when they were conquered by the arms of the King of Spain. The same stipulations inserted in the fifth article of this treaty shall take place in favour of the Spanish subjects, with regard to the islands mentioned in the present article.

“VIII. All the countries and territories, which may have been, or which may be conquered in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, as well as by those of his Catholic Majesty, which are not included in the present treaty, neither under the head of cessions, nor under the head of restitutions, shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

“IX. Immediately after the exchange of the ratifications, the two high contracting parties shall name commissaries to treat concerning new arrangements of commerce between the two nations, on the basis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which arrangements shall be settled and concluded within the space of two years, to be computed from the first of January, 1784.

“X. As it is necessary to appoint a certain period for the restitutions and evacuations to be made by each of the high contracting parties, it is agreed, that the King of Great Britain shall cause East Florida to be evacuated three months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done. The King of Great Britain shall, in like manner, enter again into possession of the islands of Providence, and the Bahamas, without exception, in the space of three months after the ratification of the present treaty, or sooner if it can be done. In consequence whereof, the necessary orders shall be sent by each of the high contracting parties, with reciprocal passports for the ships which shall carry them, immediately after the ratification of the present treaty.

“XI. Their Britannic and Catholic Majesties promise to observe sincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and established in the present treaty; and they will not suffer the same to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their respective subjects: and the said high contracting

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1783 ing parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the stipulations of the present treaty.

“ XII. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, prepared in good and due form, shall be exchanged in this city of Versailles, between the high contracting parties, in the space of one month, or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty. In witness whereof, we, the under-written ambassadors extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, have signed with our hands, and their names, and by virtue of our respective full powers, the present definitive treaty, and have caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

“ Done at Versailles, the third day of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) LE COMTE D'ARANDA.

“ (L. S.) MANCHESTER.”

DECLARATION.

“ The new state in which commerce may perhaps be found, in all parts of the world, will demand revisions and explanations of the subsisting treaties; but an entire abrogation of those treaties, in whatever period it might be, would throw commerce into such confusion as would be of infinite prejudice to it.

“ In some of the treaties of this sort there are not only articles which relate merely to commerce, but many others which insure reciprocally, to the respective subjects, privileges, facilities for conducting their affairs, personal protections, and other advantages, which are not, and which ought not to be of a changeable nature, such as the regulations relating merely to the value of goods and merchandize, variable from circumstances of every kind.

“ When therefore the state of the trade between the two nations shall be treated upon, it is requisite to be understood, that the alterations which may be made in the subsisting treaties are to extend only to arrangements merely commercial; and that the privileges and advantages mutual and particular, be not only preserved on each side, but even augmented, if it can be done.

“ In this view, his Majesty has consented to the appointment of commissaries, on each side, who shall treat solely upon this object.

“ Done at Versailles, the third of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) MANCHESTER.”

COUNTER-DECLARATION.

“ The Catholic King, in proposing new arrangements of commerce, has had no other design than to remedy, by the rules of reciprocity and mutual convenience, whatever may be defective in preceding treaties of commerce. The King of Great Britain may judge from thence, that the intention of his Catholic Majesty is not in any manner to cancel all the stipulations contained in the above-mentioned treaties; he declares, on the contrary, from henceforth, that he is disposed to maintain all the privileges, facilities, and advantages, expressed in the old treaties, as far as they shall be reciprocal, or compensated by equivalent advantages. It is to attain this end, desired on each side, that commissaries are to be named to treat upon the state of trade between the two nations, and that a considerable space of time is to be allowed for completing their work. His Catholic Majesty hopes that this object will be pursued with the same good faith, and with the same spirit of conciliation, which have presided over the discussion

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1783 discussion of all the other points included in the definitive treaty; and his said Majesty is equally confident, that the respective commissaries will employ the utmost diligence for the completion of this important work.

“ Done at Versailles, the third of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) LE COMTE D'ARANDA.”

The definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America.

“ Article I. His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz. New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free, sovereign, and independent states; that he treats with them as such; and for himself, his heirs and successors, relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the same, and every part thereof.

“ II. And that all disputes which might arise in future on the subject of the boundaries of the said United States may be prevented, it is hereby agreed and declared, that the following are, and shall be, their boundaries, viz. from the north-west angle of Nova Scotia, to that angle which is formed by a line drawn due north,—from the source of St. Croix river to the Highlands, along the said Highlands, which divide those rivers that empty themselves into the river St. Laurence,—from those which fall into the Atlantic Ocean, to the north westernmost head of Connecticut river,—thence down along the middle of that river, to the 45th degree of north latitude,—from thence by a line due west on that latitude, until it strikes the river Iroquois or Cateraquy,—thence along the middle of the said river into the lake Ontario, through the middle of that lake, until it strikes the communication between the said lake and the lake Erie,—thence along the middle of that communication into lake Erie, through the middle of the said lake, until it arrives at the water communication between that lake and Lake Huron,—thence along the middle of the said water communication,—thence through the middle of the said lake to the water communication between that lake and Lake Superior,—thence through Lake Superior, northward of the isles Royal and Phillipeaux, to the Long Lake,—thence through the middle of the said Long Lake, and the water communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods,—thence through the said Lake to the most north-western point of it; and from thence, in a due west course, to the river Mississippi,—thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of the said river Mississippi, until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude.—South, by a line to be drawn due east, from the determination of the line last-mentioned, in the latitude of 31 degrees north of the Equator, to the middle of the river Apalachicola, or Catahouche,—thence along the middle thereof, to its junction with the river Flint,—thence strait to the head of St. Mary's River, and thence down along the middle of St. Mary's River to the Atlantic Ocean.—East, by a line to be drawn along the middle of the river St. Croix, from its mouth in the Bay of Fundy, to its source; and from its source, directly north to the said Highlands, which divide the rivers that fall into the Atlantic Ocean, from those which fall into the river St. Laurence; comprehending all islands within 20 leagues of any part of the shores of the United States, and lying between lines to be drawn due east from the points where the said boundaries, between Nova Scotia on the one part, and East Florida on the

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1783 the other, shall respectively touch the Bay of Fundy, and the Atlantic Ocean; excepting such islands as now are, or heretofore have been within the limits of the said province of Nova Scotia.

“ III. It is agreed, that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy, unmolested, the right to take fish of every kind on the grand bank, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland: also in the gulph of St. Lawrence, and at all other places in the sea where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish. And also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fishermen shall use, (but not to dry or cure the same on that island) and also on the coasts, bays, and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unfettled bays, harbours, and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands, and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unfettled; but so soon as the same, or either of them, shall be fettled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement without a previous agreement for that purpose with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground.

“ IV. It is agreed, that creditors on either side shall meet with no lawful impediment to the recovery of the full value, in sterling money, of all *bonâ fide* debts heretofore contracted.

“ V. It is agreed, that the Congress shall earnestly recommend it to the legislatures of the respective states, to provide for the restitution of all estates, rights, and properties, which have been confiscated, belonging to real British subjects, and also of the estates, rights and properties of persons resident in districts in the possession of his Majesty's arms, and who have not borne arms against the said United States: and that persons of any other description shall have free liberty to go to any part or parts of any of the Thirteen United States, and therein to remain twelve months unmolested in their endeavours to obtain the restitution of such of their estates, rights, and properties, as may have been confiscated: and that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, a reconsideration and revision of all acts or laws regarding the premises, so as to render the said laws or acts perfectly consistent not only with justice and equity, but with that spirit of conciliation which, on the return of the blessings of peace, should universally prevail. And that Congress shall also earnestly recommend to the several states, that the estates, rights, and properties, of such last-mentioned persons shall be restored to them, they refunding to any persons who may be now in possession of the *bonâ fide* price (where any has been given) which such persons may have paid on purchasing any of the said lands, rights, or properties, since the confiscation.

“ And it is agreed, that all persons who have any interest in confiscated lands, either by debts, marriage settlements, or otherwise, shall meet with no lawful impediment in the prosecution of their just rights.

“ VI. That there shall be no future confiscations made, nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons, for or by reason of the part which he or they may have taken in the present war; and that no person shall, on that account, suffer any further loss or damage either in his person, liberty, or property; and that those who may be in confinement on such charges at the time of the ratification of the treaty in America, shall be immediately set at liberty, and the prosecutions so commenced be discontinued.

“ VII. There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said States, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore, all hostilities, both by sea and land, shall from henceforth cease: all prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall, with all convenient speed, and without

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1783 causing any destruction, or carrying away any negroes, or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons, and fleets, from the said United States, and from every port, place, and harbour within the same; leaving in all fortifications the American artillery that may be therein: and shall also order and cause all archives, records, deeds, and papers, belonging to any of the said States, or their citizens, which in the course of the war may have fallen into the hands of his officers, to be forthwith restored and delivered to the proper states and persons to whom they belong.

“ VIII. The navigation of the river Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall for ever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain, and the citizens of the United States.

“ IX. In case it should so happen, that any place or territory belonging to Great Britain, or to the United States, should have been conquered by the arms of either from the other, before the arrival of the said provisional articles in America, it is agreed, that the same shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

“ X. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, expedited in good and due form, shall be exchanged between the contracting parties in the space of six months, or sooner if possible, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty.

“ In witness whereof, we, the under-signed, their ministers plenipotentiary, have, in their name, and in virtue of our full powers, signed with our hands the present definitive treaty, and caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

“ Done at Paris, this third day of September, 1783.

“ (L. S.) D. HARTLEY.

“ (L. S.) JOHN ADAMS.

“ (L. S.) B. FRANKLIN.

“ (L. S.) JOHN JAY.”

The definitive treaty with the States General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, was not signed till the month of May in the succeeding year.

The peace was proclaimed at London on the fifteenth of September, in this year, with all the usual solemnities.

On the eleventh of November the two Houses of Parliament met for the dispatch of business, when the speech from the throne informed them concerning the state of the treaties of peace, and the happy prospect there was, that the several parties to those treaties would concur with the King in his inclination to keep the calamities of war at a distance. The reason of their being called together after such a short recess was then explained: the situation of the East India Company was represented as claiming their utmost exertions, and the providing for the security and increase of the revenue, by the suppression of the illicit trade, was strongly recommended. The House of Commons was informed, that the reductions which had been made in the naval and military establishments were brought as low as prudence would admit, and that it was not doubted but the fortitude which had hitherto supported the nation under so many difficulties, would make her bear with cheerfulness the burthens which the present exigencies would require, and which were necessary for the full support of the national credit.— The speech concluded with recommending temper and moderation in all their deliberations, and with hoping, that, as in many respects our situation was new, their counsels would provide what that situation called for, and that their wisdom would give permanency to whatever had been found beneficial by the experience of ages.

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The affairs of the East India Company were, at this time, in such a situation as to demand some immediate as well as effectual regulations, and the present administration were determined to provide them. Mr. Fox, accordingly, on the 18th of November, moved for leave to bring in a bill for vesting the affairs of the East India Company in the hands of certain commissioners, for the benefit of the proprietors and the public.

It was, perhaps, impossible for a subject of greater dignity and weight to be brought under the inspection of Parliament: it involved a principal source of our commerce and opulence: it was intimately connected with the honour and fair fame of the British nation, and was pregnant with happiness or misery to 30,000,000 of people. The patronage and the wealth of India might also be considered as a continual source of influence and corruption, and if placed without controul, might tend to overturn that balance of the constitution, on which our liberties depend.

The bill for vesting the government in commissioners, was accompanied with a second bill, the professed object of which was, the precluding all kinds of arbitrary and despotic proceedings from the administration of the territorial possessions &c.

As these two bills embrace such an important object, occasioned such a national ferment, and met with such an uncommon fate, we shall here insert abstracts of them.

ABSTRACT of a BILL for vesting the Affairs of the EAST INDIA COMPANY in the Hands of certain Commissioners for the Benefit of the Proprietors and the Public.

“ Whereas great disorders have prevailed and do still increase in the management of the territorial possessions, revenues, and commerce of this kingdom in the East Indies, diminishing the prosperity of the natives, and impairing, and threatening with utter ruin, the valuable interests of this nation in that country.

“ That the government and management of the present directors and proprietors be suspended.

“ That William Earl Fitzwilliam, the Right Honourable Frederic Montagu, George Lord Viscount Lewisham, the Honourable George Augustus North, Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart. Sir Henry Fletcher, Bart. and Robert Gregory, Esq. be constituted Directors, with the several powers of the former court of directors and general court of proprietors.

“ That the above directors immediately enter into possession of all lands, tenements, books, records, vessels, goods, money, and securities, in trust for the Company.

“ That Thomas Cheap, George Cuming, Richard Hall, John Harrison, Joseph Sharp, John Michie, John Smith, George Tatem, and James Moffat, Esquires, proprietors each of them of 2,000l. Company's stock at least, be assistant directors, entirely subordinate to the principal directors.

“ That any vacancy in the board of directors be filled by his Majesty, under his sign manual, within twenty days.

“ That any vacancy in the board of assistant directors, be filled by the majority of proprietors, qualified as formerly, not by ballot, but in an open court.

“ That any five of the directors be empowered to remove any of the assistant directors, entering in their journals their reasons for the removal.

“ That William Earl Fitzwilliam be chairman of the board of directors, and the Right Honourable Frederic Montagu be deputy-chairman, with the reversion of the chair: future vacancies in these offices to be supplied by the election of the directors.

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“ That the chairman, or in his absence the deputy chairman, have power to summon any extraordinary meeting of the board, and to propose the business to be first considered, with the privilege of a casting voice; the majority of the directors however being at liberty to adjourn their meetings as they shall think proper.

“ That the directors vote openly, and in any difference of opinion, except as to the election to offices of a person not having before been in the Company's service, enter upon their journals their reasons for their vote.

“ That no person concerned in any mercantile manner with the company.

“ That no person charged with corrupt practice, speculation, or oppression in India, within two years before the time of his nomination, until the directors, or three of them, shall have examined into and acquitted him of the charge.

“ That no person who has been, or shall hereafter be, in the Company's service in India, until two years from his return be elapsed, be capable of being a director, or assistant director.

“ That the directors, once in every six months, lay before the general court of proprietors an exact state of their accounts.

“ That the directors, within twenty days after the commencement of every session of Parliament, lay before the commissioners of the treasury, to be submitted to both houses of Parliament, an accurate state of their accounts and establishments.

“ That the directors have full powers to remove, or suspend, every person from any station, civil or military, in the company's service.

“ That every charge of speculation, usury, receipt of presents, oppression or breach of orders, transmitted to the directors, be examined by them within twenty days, and if they shall not think proper to recal, or order a prosecution against the person so charged, each director enter in their journals his reasons for declining those steps.

“ That the directors, before they confirm the appointment themselves, or suffer the departure from Great Britain for India of any person against whom any such charge has been made, make a full examination into the subject of the charge, and enter upon their journals their reasons for not attending to it.

“ That in case of any difference between the governor-general and council of Bengal, or between any of the presidents and their councils; or between the government of one settlement and the government of another, the directors enter into an examination of the difference within twenty days, and within three months either come to a definitive decision, or enter upon their journals their reasons for not coming to such a decision.

“ That in case of any question submitted to the directors by any of the presidencies in India, the directors return an answer to the question within three months, or enter upon their journals the reasons of their delay.

“ That, in case of any breach of treaty, injury, or grievance, committed against any Prince in India, complained of, or otherwise coming to the knowledge of the directors, the directors enquire into such injury as speedily as may be, begin their examination by considering the treaties or orders of the former directors and court of proprietors, and do complete justice to such Prince on every material article of complaint, and not upon the whole in gross.

“ That three of the directors form a board.

“ That the correspondence of the directors be signed by their secretary.

“ That the directors and assistant directors, be incapable of holding any office in the company's service, or any place of profit from the crown during pleasure.

“ That

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" That any director hereafter to be appointed by his Majesty, be not disqualified from sitting in the House of Commons.

" That the assistant directors receive from the company a clear yearly salary of 500l.

" That this act continue in force for four years."

Abstract of a Bill for the better Government of the Territorial Possessions and Dependencies in India.

" Whereas great disorders have prevailed in the government of the British East Indies, and the laws and lawful authority of this kingdom, have not been duly obeyed by the servants of the East India Company.

" That no authority is, or was intended to be granted by an act of the 13th of Geo. III. (Lord North's East India bill) or by any other act to the governor general and council of Bengal, or any other person, exempting them from a strict obedience to the orders of the late court of directors, or the future orders of the commissioners, named, instead of that court, in an act of this session of Parliament.

" That the orders of the late court of directors be considered as rules for the conduct of the Company's servants, until notice shall be given by the commissioners of any alteration or repeal.

" That the restrictions and provisions of the act 13th Geo. III. were not intended, and are hereby expressly declared not to be confined to the forts, factories, and other subordinate places in the settlement of Fort William, but extend to all ordinances issued by the governor general and council of Fort William.

" That an abstract of such ordinances be registered and affixed in the Persian and Hindostan languages, in every provincial court in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, or in the territory to which they relate.

" That the powers of the governor general and council, or of any president and council, be incapable of being delegated, and that no proceedings in the execution of any special commission be finally approved, until a full report, accompanied with vouchers, be made to the governor general and council, or president and council.

" That all communications of any native Prince or his agent, or any British resident, or subordinate settlement, or collector of revenue, shall be addressed to the governor general and council, or president and council, and all such communications, however addressed, be laid before the council.

" That the governor general or president may adjourn the consideration of any question in the respective councils for the space of such questions not to be adjourned oftner than

" That the governor general and council, or president and council, shall not exchange any territory, or accept any acquisition.

" That the governor general and council do not invade the territory of any independent Prince, until a majority in council, in minutes subscribed by each member composing the majority, shall declare that such Prince is about to attack the territory of the Company or their dependencies.

" That

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“ That the governor general and council, or president and council, do not form any alliance for the purpose of dividing or sharing any territory.

“ That the governor general and council, or president and council, do not hire out any part of the Company's troops to any independent Prince.

“ That the governor general and council, or president and council, do not appoint to any office any person removed from any office for misdemeanor.

“ That the governor general and council, or president and council, or any collector of revenue, or member of any subordinate settlement, do not let out to hire any farm, or other thing, to any servant of any person in the civil service of the Company ; the profits of all contracts, contrary to this clause, to be recoverable from the principal.

“ That all monopolies in India be void.

“ That no debt or balance exceeding any purchase, be recoverable after the space of for such debt. in consequence of any advance for and no person be imprisoned

“ That, whereas by the act 13th Geo. III. it is enacted, That every illegal present be deemed to have been received for the use of the Company, and whereas that provision has been attended with inconvenience; that every such present, if the same be not corruptly given, to obtain any place or other object, to which the person giving the same shall not be entitled, be returned, and be recoverable by action.

“ That in case the person giving such present, or the Company do not sue for the same within months, the same be recoverable by any person for his sole use and benefit.

“ That if any person be convicted in any of the courts in India of receiving any present contrary to the act 13th Geo. III. such person shall thereupon

“ That all lands and tenements, not in the actual occupation of the Company, or by them farmed out, be deemed to be the estate and inheritance of the native landholders and families, unless dispossessed by the judgment of some competent court for some crime or misdemeanor, or non-payment of their rent.

“ That the rent paid by the landholders immediately before the year shall not be altered or increased.

“ That the governor general and council may restore any landholder dispossessed of his territory; subject nevertheless to such leases as shall have been made before the and if the landholder shall have quitted his territory upon condition of receiving any pension, and shall prefer such pension, that the same upon no account be discontinued.

“ That no Princes engaged to keep up a body of troops for the service of the Company, or to pay any body of English troops, or to pay any tribute for the protection of the Company, be molested in the enjoyment of their rights.

“ That all persons be amenable to the commissioners, and to all courts of justice of competent jurisdiction to try offences committed in India, for offences committed in the territories of any protected Prince.

“ That no servant of the Company, or of his Majesty, take upon himself to collect or farm the revenues of any protected Prince.

"That, if any servant of the Company shall invade the territories of any independent Prince, without written orders from the governor general and council, such person upon conviction thereof be

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“ That no protected Prince have any other Prince dependent upon him, any farther than such Prince shall have stood bound to him before the year ; the troops of these last not to be required without the orders of the governor general and council, or president and council.

“ That the succession of the protected Princes shall not be altered or disposed of by will contrary to the laws of the country and the faith of treaties.

“ That the protected Princes do not farm any lands of the Company.

“ That no protected Prince be permitted to reside for more than years in any of the Company's settlements, unless being expelled from his dominions.

“ That no servant of the Company have any pecuniary transactions with any protected Prince ; all such transactions to be and any person convicted of such transaction to be

“ That no protected Prince remove, or increase the rent of any Zemindar beyond what was paid in the year.

“ That all Zemindars so dispossessed shall be restored.

“ That the Nabob of Arcot, the Rajah of Tanjour, or any other protected Prince, do not mortgage any land to any British subject ; such mortgages to be and their produce recoverable by action.

“ That no money be received upon account of any debts from any protected Prince, except such as were consolidated in the year without being first examined, and appearing to the commissioners to have been contracted in some open and avowed course of trade, and not as the reward of any service, or for any other matter prohibited by law, or by the future orders of the commissioners ; the evidence in support of the debt to be entered in the journals of the commissioners.

“ That the disputes between the Nabob of Arcot, and the Rajah of Tanjour, be examined and adjusted by the commissioners as soon as may be, according to the principles of the treaty of 1762, the orders of the directors to George Lord Pigot, and the arrangements of George Lord Pigot.

“ That the commissioners transmit to the governor general and council, or to the president and council of Fort St. George, or to such persons as they shall specially appoint, full orders for terminating the said disputes ; for examining the present state of the affairs, revenues and debts of the said Princes ; and the claims of British subjects upon them ; for making an immediate report to the commissioners ; for adopting or suggesting such means for the liquidation of the *bonâ fide* debts, as shall be consistent with justice to the creditors and the service of the Company, and shall occasion the least inconvenience to these Princes ; and for making an immediate report of their proceeding to the commissioners.

“ That all Polygars dispossessed since the year be restored at the same rent as they were liable to pay immediately before.

“ That whereas disputes have arisen respecting the extent of the controlling power given by the act 13th Geo. III. to the governor general and council over the presidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, in matters of war, peace and treaties, the said power do extend to all matters, directly or indirectly tending to the commencement of hostilities ; the governor general and council to enter upon their minutes their reasons for treating any proceeding as contrary to this declaration ; and the presidencies, in case of any doubt, to submit to the acts of the governor general and council, and to lay the case before the commissioners.

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“ That it be lawful for the presidency of Bombay, in case of war or the danger of war, in the north west and western coasts of India, or in the territories of the Mahrattas, to conclude any treaty, truce, or alliance with any native Prince; the presidency to insert in such treaty a provision, that the same shall be null and void, unless ratified within a limited time by the governor general and council; to enter upon their minutes the reasons of their conduct with vouchers, to transmit to the governor general and council, and to the commissioners; and to obey the orders of the governor general until they shall be altered by the commissioners.

“ That the presidency of Madras have the like power, in case of war or the danger of war, on the coast of Coromandel, or from to on the coast of Malabar.

“ That no servant of the Company, or agent of any protected Prince, be capable of sitting in the House of Commons; such persons actually members of the House of Commons to sit during the remainder of the present Parliament.

“ That no person having been in the service of the Company, shall be capable of sitting in the House of Commons within after his return, or whilst any public prosecution is depending against him for any offences alleged to have been committed while he was in that service; such prosecutions to be commenced within after his return, and to be determined within, unless the delay be at the request, or through the default of the party prosecuted.

“ That all offences against this act may be prosecuted in the Supreme Court at Calcutta, in the Mayor's courts, in the court of King's-bench, or in any other court, specially to be instituted for this purpose; the powers given to the court of King's-bench by the act 13th Geo. III. to extend to offences against this act; and in all cases where the punishment is not herein appointed, the court is to impose, at their discretion, any fine not exceeding or imprisonment not exceeding or the incapacity of serving the Company.”

The arguments in favour of the system of regulation to be formed by these bills, arose principally from two sources,—the various and general abuses which had prevailed in the government it proposed to model anew, and the distressed and involved state of the East India Company's finances. The situation of the latter became the first subject of consideration. In the course of the preceding year the Company had applied to Parliament for leave to borrow 500,000*l.* upon bonds; they had also petitioned for 300,000*l.* in Exchequer bills, and for the suspension of a demand upon them on the part of Government for 700,000*l.* due for customs. As a check on the further increase of their debts, they were bound, by an act of Parliament, not to accept bills, drawn in India, beyond the amount of 300,000*l.* without the permission of the Lords of the Treasury; and an application had been made for that purpose, as bills were at this period coming over from Bengal for acceptance, to the amount of upwards of two millions sterling. Such was the situation of the Company at this important crisis. If the Company did not receive an adequate assistance, inevitable ruin was the attendant consequence; and the bankruptcy of a body of merchants so extensive in their concerns and of such importance in the opinion of all Europe, must necessarily give a very alarming blow to our national credit. On the other hand, though it was absolutely necessary to permit the acceptance of these bills, it would have been a measure deserving the severest censure, if the public faith had been pledged for their payment, without a previous examination into the affairs of the Company, and forming some plan for reforming their constitution. Their actual debt was asserted by Mr. Fox, the ostensible framer of these bills, to be 11,200,000*l.* and they had stock in hand towards paying this immense sum, to the amount of about 3,200,000*l.* The result of this

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1783 this comparison was a balance of 8,000,000*l.*; a sum so immense, when compared with the capital of the proprietors, as to be a very natural cause of public alarm.

In opposition to this argument, it was averred, that the foregoing statement was absolutely false; and another account was presented to the House by the Court of Directors, in which there appeared a balance in favour of the Company of near 4,000,000*l.*—This extraordinary difference in the two accounts, may be easily reconciled from the different principles on which they were adjusted. In the statement of the directors, every species of the Company's property was brought into the account, and a balance struck on the supposition of its being at that moment dissolved: in the other, such parts of their stock only were carried to their credit as could be disposed of, leaving them still in a condition to continue their trade, which it was the apparent object of the bill to enable them to do.

On the subject of abuses that prevailed in the government of India, the reports of the two Indian committees gave an horrid detail; which, from its length, we cannot adopt, and, from its circumstances, we are glad to pass over, without being obliged to describe them.

These abuses in India related, first, to the independent powers in that country, and were represented to consist of extravagant projects, and expensive wars, entered into by the Company for the purpose of extending their dominions; of their violations of treaties,—their breaches of faith,—the sale of the Company's authority and assistance, in support of the ambition, rapacity, and cruelty of others, as well as the betraying every prince, without exception, with whom they had formed any connection in India.

Secondly, The states in alliance with, or dependent on us, were represented as being, and having been subject to a very ruinous and corrupt interference in their internal government; that their rights were invaded, exorbitant aids and tribute unjustly exacted, and the most flagrant peculations committed, as well as ravages perpetrated, by the civil and military servants of the Company: and,

Thirdly, With respect to the management of the countries under the immediate dominion of the Company, it was stated, that the conduct of its governors and inferior officers appeared to have but one object,—the transmission of wealth from India to Great Britain. With this view, monopolies had at one time been established, not only of every article of trade, but even of the necessaries of life: at another, the privilege of pre-emption was secured to the Company; and these were followed by partial and arbitrary preferences, not less ruinous in their consequences than the former. By such an oppressive and impolitic conduct, the merchants and bankers of India, many of whom, in point of credit and extensive dealings, were scarcely equalled by those of the first class in Europe, were disabled from continuing their habitual career of commercial undertaking; whilst the native cultivators and manufacturers, from the decay of trade, were obliged to be contented with the pittance that was measured out to them by those who were to profit by their labour. But this was not all;—the original evil extended itself far and wide: the servants of the Company adopted the principles of their masters; and setting them in motion, for their own private purposes, completed the mischief.—The case of the Zemindars, and of the renters under them, was still more deplorable; and these sufferings of the natives under our dominion in India, were, with great truth, represented as being very much aggravated by their exclusion from any share in the expenditures of the Company's government. All the principal collections of the revenue,—all the honourable,—all the lucrative situations in the army,—all the supplies and contracts, of every kind, were solely in the hands of the English: so that the natives, with very few exceptions, were only

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On the whole of the article of abuses, it was insisted, that by accumulated acts of injustice, oppression, and cruelty, dictated by an improvident and rapacious policy, our possessions in India, instead of a resource to the public, were in danger of becoming one of its greatest burthens; that, by the oppression of our allies and dependants, they had either alienated them from us, or rendered them useless and burthensome to us; that, by wars carried on from corrupt and ambitious motives, and by repeated violations of the most solemn engagements with foreign powers, all confidence in British faith and justice had been obliterated, and our government rendered odious throughout India.

The facts from which these conclusions were drawn, and the conclusions themselves, (both of which, indeed, were recorded in the proceedings of the House of Commons) were not controverted by those who opposed the bills in any other manner than by a general charge of exaggeration; but the plea of necessity, which the framers of them had undertaken to establish, on the principle, that these abuses, without a total change of system, were utterly incurable, was more strongly contested.

In the course of debate, it was frequently suggested, that a company of merchants was totally unfit to be trusted with the political government of a distant foreign dominion, or with the management of large territorial revenues; but as this position was not generally assented to, in its whole extent, by either party, the arguments principally insisted on, were drawn from the peculiar constitution and circumstances of the Company itself.

The opposition to these bills was conducted by Mr. William Pitt.—Two objections were principally insisted on by this gentleman and his supporters; the one built upon the infringement, or rather annihilation of the charter of the Company; the other, upon the new and unconstitutional influence the proposed measures were calculated to create.

India, it is true, said they, cried aloud for a reform; but not such a reform as was now proposed: it wanted a constitutional, and not a tyrannical alteration, that was contrary to every principle of equity and justice. By the bill in question, an attack was made on the most solemn charters: it aimed a fatal blow at the integrity and the faith of Parliament, and loosened every tie by which man was bound to man. This charter did not owe its birth to the foolish prepossession or the mad prodigality of a Plantagenet, a Tudor, or a Stuart; it was a fair purchase from the public,—an equal compact, for reciprocal advantages, between the proprietors and the nation at large.

If the principle on which this bill was founded, should be once established, what security was there for the other public companies of the kingdom? What security had the national creditors, or the public corporations? Or, indeed, what assurance should we possess for the Great Charter itself, the foundation of all our privileges and all our liberties?—It would be folly in the extreme to suppose, that the principle, once admitted, would operate only on the affairs of the East India Company; when a bad principle was by any means established, there would never be wanting bad men to extend its effects.

The charter which gave to the India Company its rights, was conceived in the clearest terms that language could express. It was superior, both in strength and perspicuity, to that of the bank of England. The right by which the King held the sceptre of Great Britain was not more solemnly confirmed. The bill included a confiscation of the property, and a disfranchisement of the members of the East India Company. It required the directors to deliver

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1783 liver up all lands, tenements, houses, books, records, charters, instruments, vessels, goods, money, and securities. The power, indeed, was declared to be created in trust for the benefit of the proprietors; but in case of any, even the most daring breach of trust, to whom could an appeal be made?—Not to the proprietors, but to a majority of either house of Parliament, which the weakest minister could not fail to secure, with the patronage of above two millions sterling given by this bill.

It might be answered, on the suggestion made by the framers of this bill, that it was not a bill of disfranchisement, because it did not take from the proprietors their right to an exclusive trade,—that this trade was not the only franchise of the proprietors.—If a franchise belonging to a freehold was taken away, the property might remain; but, surely, the freeholder would have a very just cause of complaint. The case was parallel as to India stock:—Persons possessed of stock to a certain amount, are entitled to vote upon every important question of the Company's affairs; and the value of stock is enhanced from this privilege: this bill, therefore, by taking it away, might be charged, in every sense of the word, with disfranchising the proprietors.

The bill was also considered, by some, as pregnant with fatal consequences, from its tendency to increase the influence of the crown; but it was principally objected to from its being calculated to create a new, enormous, and unexampled patronage, which it placed in the hands of the minister. Mr. Dundas, the late Lord Advocate of Scotland, went so far as to accuse Mr. Fox of endeavouring to create a fourth estate in the realm, which being possessed of an immense patronage, independent of the crown and of Parliament, might be attended with fatal consequences to the constitution of Great Britain.

Previous to the second reading of the bill, a petition was presented to the House of Commons by the directors of the East India Company, and another from the proprietors, representing the measure as subversive of their charter, and operating as a confiscation of their property, without charging them with any specific delinquency,—without trial, and without conviction; a proceeding wholly contrary to the most sacred privilege of British subjects. They therefore prayed, that the acts of delinquency presumed against them, might be stated in writing, and a reasonable time allowed them to deliver in their answer; and that they might be heard by themselves or their counsel against the bill.

In short, this famous bill was attacked and defended with great spirit and eloquence in all its stages. During the progress of it, a petition was presented by the mayor, aldermen, and common council of London to Parliament, praying that it might not pass into a law. In the committee it was determined that the commissioners should not be disqualified from sitting in the House of Commons; but the same privilege was not extended to the assistants. On the motion of Sir William Dolben, the duration of the bill was fixed to the term of four years.—Besides the opposition it encountered with regard to its principle, much complaint was made of the indecent haste with which it was carried through the House. It was supported, however, through all its stages, by a very considerable majority of members. On the 8th of December, the bill passed the Commons, on a division of 208 to 102, and the next day was carried up to the Lords.

This bill had been carried in the House of Commons by such a commanding majority, as not to leave in the minds of its supporters the least apprehension of the fate which hung over it. On the 9th of December, Mr. Fox, attended by a great number of members, presented the bill at the bar of the House of Lords. On its first reading, a very powerful opposition ap-

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1783 peared to rise up against it. Lord Thurlow expressed himself in the most decided manner on this occasion: he gave it as his opinion, that the bill was a most atrocious violation of private property; that it contained powers which touched the dearest rights of Englishmen, and could only be justified by the most irresistible necessity, which ought not to be allowed on the reports of a committee, but was of that importance as to demand a full and fair proof, by evidence at the bar of the House. The second reading took place on the 15th of the same month, and counsel was heard on the part of the directors and proprietors. On the 17th, a motion was made that the bill be rejected; which, after a very powerful debate, was carried, by a majority of 95 against 76.

The fate of this bill involved in it the fate of the administration that produced it; and, on the 18th of December, a new administration was appointed.—Mr. William Pitt was made First Lord of the Treasury,—Earl Gower President of the Council,—Earl Temple held the seals of Secretary of State for a very few days, till Lord Sydney and the Marquis of Carmarthen were appointed to receive them,—Lord Thurlow was restored to the office of Chancellor,—the Duke of Rutland was appointed Lord Privy Seal,—Lord Howe First Lord of the Admiralty,—and the Duke of Richmond Master-General of the Ordnance, &c.—On the 26th, Parliament was adjourned to the 12th of January, 1784.

On the 27th of December, the following declaration of his Majesty in council concerning the commerce of Great Britain with the United States of America, was published in the London Gazette:—

“ At the Court of St. James’s, the 26th of December, 1783.

“ Whereas, by virtue of an act passed in the last session of Parliament, entitled, ‘ An act for preventing certain instruments from being required from ships belonging to the United States of America, and to give to his Majesty, for a limited time, certain powers, for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the subjects of his Majesty’s dominions and the inhabitants of the United States,’ several orders have been issued by his Majesty at this board, for regulating and carrying on the trade and commerce between the subjects of his Majesty’s dominions and the inhabitants of the United States of America, which orders did expire on the 20th day of this instant December: and whereas by an act passed in the present session of Parliament, to continue, for a limited time, the said above recited act, it is enacted, that the said act, and all the matters and things therein contained, shall continue and be in force until the 20th day of April, 1784.—His Majesty doth thereupon, by and with the advice of his privy council, hereby order and declare, that any unmanufactured goods or merchandizes, the importation of which into this kingdom is not prohibited by law, (except oil) and any pitch, tar, turpentine, indigo, masts, yards, and bowsprits, being the growth or production of any of the United States of America, may (until farther order) be imported directly from thence into any of the ports of this kingdom, either in British or American ships, by British subjects, or by any of the people inhabiting in and belonging to the said United States, or any of them, and may be entered or landed in any port of this kingdom, upon payment of the same duties as the like sort of goods or merchandize are or may be subject and liable to, if imported by British subjects, in British ships, from any British island or plantation in America, and no other, notwithstanding such goods or merchandize, or the ships in which the same may be brought, may not be accompanied with the certificates or other documents heretofore required by law.

“ And

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1783 “ And it is hereby further ordered, that there shall be the same drawbacks, exemptions, and bounties on merchandizes and goods exported from Great Britain into the territories of the said United States of America, or any of them, as are or may be allowed by law, upon the exportation of the like goods or merchandize to any of the islands, plantations, or colonies, belonging to the crown of Great Britain in America.

“ And his Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, that any tobacco, being the growth of any of the territories of the said United States of America, may (until further order) be imported directly from thence, in manner above mentioned, and may be landed in this kingdom, upon the importer paying down, in ready money, the duty commonly called the old subsidy, (except as herein after excepted) such tobacco may be warehoused under his Majesty's locks, upon the importer's own bond for payment of all the further duties due for such tobacco, within the time limited by law, according to the net weight and quantity of such tobacco, at the time it shall be so landed, with the same allowances for the payment of such further duties, and under the like restrictions and regulations, in all other respects, not altered by this order, as such tobacco is and may be warehoused by virtue of any act or acts of Parliament in force: but it is his Majesty's pleasure, nevertheless, that upon the importation of any such tobacco into the ports of London, Bristol, Liverpool, Cowes, Whitehaven, Greenock, and Port Glasgow, or either of them, in the manner herein before expressed, the importer shall be at liberty, until further order, to enter into bond for the payment as well of the duty commonly called the old subsidy, or any other of the duties which were formerly payable in ready money; and that if any tobacco which has been, or shall be so imported, during the continuance of this order, from the territories of the said United States into the said ports of London, Bristol, Liverpool, Cowes, Whitehaven, Greenock, and Port Glasgow, shall be afterwards taken, within the time limited, out of the warehouses wherein the same shall be secured under his Majesty's locks, in manner herein before directed, at either of the above ports, to be exported directly from thence, the bonds which have been, or shall be entered into, for payment of the said duties, shall be discharged in the manner directed by the several acts of Parliament in force.

“ And, in order to facilitate the carrying trade and commerce between the people and territories belonging to the crown of Great Britain in the West Indies, including in that description, the Bahama islands, and the Bermuda or Somer islands, and the people and territories belonging to the said United States of America, his Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, that pitch, tar, turpentine, hemp, flax, masts, yards, and bowsprits, staves, heading-boards, timber, shingles, and all other species of lumber; horses, neat cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, and all other species of live stock and live provisions; peas, beans, potatoes, wheat, flour, bread, biscuit, rice, oats, barley, and all other species of grain, being the growth or production of any of the said United States of America, may (until further order) be imported by British subjects, in British built ships, owned by his Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to law, from any port of the said United States of America, to any of his Majesty's West India islands, the Bahama islands, and the Bermuda or Somers islands; and the rum, sugar, melasses, coffee, cocoa-nuts, ginger, and pimento, may (until such order) be exported by British subjects, in British ships, owned by his Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to law, from any of the said islands, to any port or place within the said United States, upon the payment of the same duties on exportation, and subject to the like rules, regulations, securities, and restrictions, as the same articles by law are or may be subject and liable to, if exported to any

British

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1783 British colony or plantation in America; and the bonds and securities heretofore required to be taken for such ships carrying such goods, shall, and may be cancelled and discharged, upon the like certificates as are required by the above recited act, to discharge any bonds given in Great Britain for the due landing any other goods in the said United States of America.

“ And his Majesty is hereby further pleased to order, with the advice aforesaid, that the said several regulations herein comprized, shall, in all respects, be extended to such ships and goods as shall have been brought and imported from, or may be entered and shipped for exportation, to any part of the said United States, since the said 20th day of this instant December.

“ And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, are to give the necessary directions herein, as to them may respectively appertain.

STEPHEN COTTREL.

The continental colonists, when on the eve of a revolt, were convinced that their traffic was obviously essential to the West Indians, and therefore prohibited all commerce between them: yet eight years experience hath evinced, that it is possible for the West Indies to exist and to prosper, even if the United States were doomed to perpetual sterility. It is the mercantile spirit which brings the buyers and sellers of distant countries together: merchants are always attentive to discover the demands of every market, that they may profit by supplying them.—The traders of Great Britain and Ireland seized the opportunity which the factious folly of the Americans had furnished, to revive and extend the business that had enriched their fathers during happier times. Even during a consuming war, when vast fleets and armies were fed beyond the ocean, Great Britain and Ireland sufficiently supplied all those necessities which the West Indians did not readily find in their own œconomy. Their superabundance even furnished the army that General Grant conducted to their aid, with several months provisions, while the fleet sometimes partook of what the planters had to spare.—The following custom-house entries will sufficiently shew whence that abundance was drawn at the beginning, at the middle, and at the end of the war.

Of salted provisions there were exported from England alone,—

	<i>Irish Beef.</i>	<i>Irish Pork.</i>	<i>English Beef</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>English Bacon.</i>	<i>English Tripe.</i>
	Barrels.	Barrels.	and Pork.	Barrels.	Flitches.	Kegs.
In 1773	— 1,195	— 383	— 259	— 1,787	— 558	— 306
In 1780	— 9,844	— 3,471	— 4,480	— 17,795	— 3,369	— 1,582
In 1783	— 9,848	— 3,059	— 3,619	— 16,526	— 5,188	— 2,559

Contrast with these quantities the West India supply of beef and pork from the revolted colonies, according

to an average of three years, ending with 1773, 14,992

Of pickled fish there were exported from England only, during the same period, viz.

	<i>Red Herrings.</i>	<i>White ditto.</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Pilchards.</i>	<i>Salmon.</i>
	Barrels.	Barrels.	Barrels.	Hogheads.	Barrels.
In 1773	— 514	— 1,876	— 2,390	— 211	— 5
In 1780	— 1,816	— 7,281	— 9,097	— 1,188	— 109
In 1713	— 2,840	— 15,060	— 17,900	— 313	— 35

Contrast with these the West India supply of pickled fish from the revolted colonies, according

to an average of three years, ending with 1773, 16,200

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1783 From England only there were exported of butter, cheese, and beer,—

	<i>Irish Butter.</i>	<i>English ditto.</i>	<i>English Cheese.</i>	<i>Beer.</i>
	Cwt.	Firkins.	Cwt.	Tons.
In 1773	— 1,195	— 92	— 3,247	— 1,881
In 1780	— 9,844	— 274	— 3,660	— 2,042
In 1783	— 3,195	— 522	— 4,475	— 3,170

From the foregoing entries, with all their defects, it is sufficiently clear, that Great Britain had regained the supply of the articles contained in them; and that, as to these necessities, the West Indian demand was amply answered. The planters derived ground provisions from the best of all resources,—their own diligence and attention. In short, the West Indians began, at this time, to learn a lesson of the greatest importance for every people to know, that no community ought to depend on its neighbour for what the necessities of life require; and that the country which is physically dependent on another, must soon become politically dependent upon it.

There were also actually exported to the British West Indies from England alone,—

	<i>Wheat-flour.</i>	<i>Oat-meal.</i>	<i>Bread.</i>
	Quarters.	Quarters.	Cwt.
In 1773	— 0	— 18	— 404
In 1780	— 35,907	— 758	— 32,587
In 1783	— 4,090	— 125	— 6,657

From Scotland there were exported in 1779 as follows:—Wheat-flour, 2,475 quarters; oat-meal, 177 ditto; bread, 5,254 hundred-weight.

There were also exported from England alone,—

	<i>Barley.</i>	<i>Peas.</i>	<i>Beans.</i>	<i>Oats.</i>	<i>Wheat.</i>	<i>Rye.</i>
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
In 1773	— 3	— 356	— 9,089	— 16,615	— 0	— 350
In 1780	— 256	— 1,116	— 12,291	— 8,006	— 1,146	— 1,116
In 1783	— 146	— 755	— 7,360	— 6,129	— 8	— 755

Of several of these articles there were also exported from Scotland in 1779, as follows:—Peas and beans, 1,327 quarters; oats, 1,052 ditto; barley, 44 ditto; wheat, 4 ditto.

From these custom-house entries it is very evident, by contrasting the exports of three years, what has been the effect of competition between Great Britain and the American states. The revolted colonies had gradually circumvented the parent country in supplying the British West Indies with all the productions of agriculture. The British yeomanry, burthened with the payment of rents, tithes, and poor-rates, could not contend with the American farmers, who were exempted from all these burthens, and whose public taxes were so much lighter.—Mr. Arthur Young, in his Political Arithmetic, has very ably proved, that in the year 1774, the American farmer could not only supply the West India market with flour much cheaper than the English farmer could do, but even exclude the English farmer from supplying the domestic markets of Britain with wheat. It is, however, curious to remark, how near to each other the events of the late war have brought the prices of provisions in America and in Great

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1783 Great Britain. The current rates at the two great markets of Philadelphia and London, in December 1783, may be compared by the following detail:—

	<i>Philadelphia Prices.</i>				<i>London Prices.</i>		
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Of fine flour, per cwt.	0	15	9	—	0	16	0
Of common ditto, —	0	13	0	—	0	14	0
Of mefs beef, per barrel,	2	2	6	—	2	2	6
Of mefs pork, ditto, —	3	0	0	—	2	8	0
	£.6	11	3		£.6	0	6

It is a remarkable fact, that the prices of all things have been uncommonly high in the United States since the peace. It was not, however, to be supposed that the London and Philadelphia prices could long continue to run thus parallel to each other; though the freights might continue to run cheaper from London than from Philadelphia. The advantages of the American farmer, notwithstanding the additional burthens of independence, will continue so superior, in respect to rents, tithes, and poor-rates, over the British farmer, that the former must at length overpower the latter in every competition. But, whatever may be the difference in the price to the West Indians, it should be considered as a small equivalent, which they ought to pay to the British consumer for enjoying the exclusive supply of sugar, rum, and other West India products: for the American citizens having now ceased to be fellow-subjects, ought certainly to be excluded from a right and a benefit which we had formerly relinquished in their favour. The British sailors and British farmers deserve all the protection of the British legislature: the first fight our battles,—the latter supply us with food.—The farmers are, therefore, entitled to the preference in supplying the West India markets with all the productions of agriculture; while the sailors have, at least, an equal claim to the employment which arises from additional freights; and the public will gain in the exact proportion as the interest of these two most useful bodies of men are promoted.

The following statement evidently proves, that the British shipping had greatly encreased by the exclusion of the American, even amidst the calamities of war.

A comparative View of the Shipping employed in the foreign Trade of Britain at the Commencement and End of the late War, as they appear in the Register of the Insurers at Lloyd's Coffee-house, distinguishing the British from the American built Ships.

*The Shipping of 1772-3-4.**The Shipping of 1781-2-3.*

	SHIPS.	TONS.
British built ships,	3,908 —	605,545
American ditto,	2,311 —	373,618

	SHIPS.	TONS.
British built ships,	3,848 —	708,346
American ditto,	2,334 —	225,439

Total,	5,182 —	933,785
Deficiency,	1,037 —	45,478

Total, 6,219 — 979,263

6,219 — 979,263

It is thus apparent, that of the whole deficiency of 1,037 vessels, there were only wanting, in 1783, of British ships, 60; and of American ships, 977: yet, that the total inferiority of the period of war to the period of peace, amounted only to 45,478 tons; while there was an increase of 102,701 British tons, and a decrease of 148,179 American tons.

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1783 It should be observed, in this place, that there were vast fleets, which, though built by British shipwrights, were not included in the surveys of 1781, 1782, and 1783; because they had not touched at any British port, and were employed by government in the transport service. From the report of the commissioners of public accounts, it appears, that there were employed at New York, by the quarter-master general, the barrack-master, and the commissary general, in the four years ending with 1780, no fewer than 611 vessels, carrying 44,916 tons. Were this fleet brought to the account of 1783, it would about complete the defective quantity of tonnage, though not the number of ships. Many of those vessels, or, perhaps, a greater number, remained till November 1783, to perform the service of final evacuation; and all, or, at least, many of them, have again entered into the merchants employment since that signal epoch, and properly fill up the void which the exclusion of the American shipping had left. But what is that fleet to the vast navy which was constantly employed during the years 1781, 1782, and 1783, by the Victualling-office, the Ordnance-office, and the Navy-office, amounting to upwards of a thousand vessels?—And, from an inspection of Lloyd's Register, we may learn, that all these transports could not have been surveyed; because the few transports which appear to have been reported, consisted of those vessels that were employed by the private contractors for various supplies. When all those, or even the half of those which had been employed by the public boards, are brought to account, it cannot be said, with any degree of truth, that there was any deficiency in the year 1783.

The number of ships which were employed by England in the whale-fishery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland seas, amounted, during the course of this year, to 47; those of Holland, in the same trade, and during the same period, to 55.

The Canada sales of this year in London, amounted to 165,000l.

According to the account delivered in at Pontefract sessions, by John Seaton, Esq. treasurer for the West Riding of York, it appears, that from the 25th of March, 1782, to the 25th of March, 1783, there had been manufactured 131,092 pieces of broad woollens, measuring 4,563,376 yards; and 108,641 pieces of narrow cloths, measuring 3,292,002 yards: and that the increase of this year was 18,622 pieces of broad, and 11,892 pieces of narrow woollens.

It may not here be improper to remark, that wool was, at this time, from 25 to 35 per cent. dearer in France than in England: which, by giving the English cloth manufacturer so decided an advantage in the raw material, enabled him to maintain his wonted superiority in the foreign market, particularly over those of France, our most formidable competitors in that important branch of commerce, and who had lately made great improvements in their woollen manufactory. Black cattle, of all kinds, were however dearer in England than in France, by full 50 per cent.; yet horses, of all sorts, were from 24 to 30 per cent. and some from 40 to 50 per cent. cheaper in England than in France.

A celebrated English calculator, at this time, supposes the lands of England to amount to 39,000,000 acres; the annual rent of which was 10,000,000l.; that of houses and other buildings, 2,000,000l.; the yearly rent of corn lands, 2,200,000l.; while their net produce is more than 9,000,000l. of which the wheat, barley, and rye, amounts to at least 6,000,000l. sterling per annum: the rent of pastures, meadows, commons, forests, heaths, &c. 7,000,000l.; and the value of the produce of the various species of cattle, 9,075,000l. supposing the year moderately plentiful.

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Dr.

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1783

Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, in his publication for equalizing the benefices of the clergy, values the ecclesiastical preferment, or land in mortmain, of the kingdom, as follows:—

	£.
Landed estate of the university of Cambridge, —	60,000
Ditto of Oxford, —	120,000
Bishopricks, —	120,000
Deaneries and chapters, —	90,000
Livings, —	1,100,000
Total, —	1,490,000

A similar valuation by Dr. Warner, amounts to — 1,680,000
 Ditto, by Dr. Burn, — 1,500,000
 Ditto, by Dr. Young, — 1,600,000

The number of newspapers printed in England, during the last ten years, is as follows:—

In 1774, —	12,562,000	In 1779, —	14,106,842
1775, —	12,600,000	1780, —	14,217,371
1776, —	12,830,000	1781, —	14,397,600
1777, —	13,150,642	1782, —	15,272,519
1778, —	13,240,659	1783, —	15,564,203

The annual product of the undermentioned manufactures, at this time, was calculated in the following manner:—

	£.		£.
Woollen, —	16,800,000	Cotton, —	960,000
Leather, —	10,500,000	Lead, —	1,650,000
Flax, —	1,750,000	Tin, —	1,000,000
Hemp, —	890,000	Iron, —	8,700,000
Glass, —	630,000	Steel, plating, &c. —	3,400,000
Paper, —	780,000		
Porcelain, —	1,000,000	Total, —	£. 51,310,000
Silk, —	3,350,000		

The iron, glass, and porcelain on a rapid increase.

Tin and leather, declining.

Paper, increasing.

Flax, rather falling.

Hemp, stationary.

Silk, rather increasing.

The Duke of Portland is in possession of a calculation that makes these fabrics employ 5,250,000 souls.

The failure of the celebrated *Caisse d'Escompte*, in France, which happened in this year, may be considered as amounting almost to a national bankruptcy, and is too interesting a subject to escape our notice.

This bank is of a very late institution: the edict which authorized the undertaking, is dated on the 22d of September, 1776. The plan was originally formed by a company of private adventurers, and its capital was fixed at 500,000l.—Its professed design was to discount (*escompter*) bills of exchange, payable at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. But this interest, from which it

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1783 it is necessary to deduct a considerable expence, and some losses, could never be equivalent for the capital sunk by the proprietors. An additional power was therefore granted them of issuing notes to the amount of their capital; which, as they were capable at any time of being converted into specie, might be often taken voluntarily by their customers, from mere convenience: and as the persons at the head of this establishment were chiefly the most eminent bankers, together with some receivers-general of the revenues, they were able, by agreeing among themselves to take these notes instead of cash, to give them a certain degree of circulation and currency. The notes thus issued, added to the original 500,000*l.* doubled their capital, and enabled them to divide upon their stock at the rate of about 6 per cent. per annum.

The excellent outline of this system seemed to ensure its success. There was always in the *Caisse* a sum of money, either in specie or in bills of a short date, amounting to 500,000*l.* equivalent to the notes in circulation. There was, besides this, the 500,000*l.* originally advanced by the projectors, and never withdrawn; as also a part of the dividends, which the proprietors had chosen to leave in the *Caisse*, for the purpose of accumulation. These circumstances had given the bank the highest degree of reputation, and caused its stock to sell greatly above par. But, notwithstanding these appearances, to the astonishment of the public, on the 2d of October in this year, the *Caisse d'Escompte* stopped payment. The assigned cause was the uncommon scarcity of specie; and it cannot be denied.—The public, however, imagined that the failure originated in a loan secretly made to government by the *Caisse d'Escompte*; and government, about the same time, stopping payment of the bills drawn upon them by their army in America, confirmed the suspicion.

The King, however, extended his support to the falling company. Four edicts were accordingly published, in order to relieve the distress under which it laboured. By the first, dated September 27, the state of accounts of the *Caisse d'Escompte* being affirmed to be as above related, this bank was authorized to pay its notes in bills of exchange, with beneficial discount.—The notes were ordered to have currency in the banks of Paris only; and all prosecution was forbidden of the *Caisse* for payment in specie, and of individuals for debts, the payment of which had been rendered in notes of the *Caisse d'Escompte*.—The edict was to remain in force till the 1st of January, 1784.—By the second edict, dated September the 30th, the ordinances against the exportation of specie were renewed; the transport of specie from province to province was subjected to inspections and a fee; the bills with which the *Caisse d'Escompte* was permitted to pay its notes, were specified to be bills payable in three months; and the *Caisse* was allowed the option of paying its notes in specie. By a third edict, dated October the 4th, an estimate was declared to have been taken, by the King's command; the *Caisse* was allowed an opportunity of discounting bills, as before, whenever it was judged convenient: and, as a further encouragement, a lottery, with a stock of one million sterling, redeemable in eight years, being established, the tickets were made purchaseable in notes of the *Caisse d'Escompte*.—In each of these edicts there was much repetition; and the fourth, which was dated October the 10th, contained no original matter.

We shall now proceed to take a brief view of the affairs and commerce of Ireland.

The administration of Earl Temple, in that kingdom, had been attended with the most conciliatory effects: addresses flowed in upon him from all quarters; while good-humour and confidence seemed once more to be restored in a nation which had, for some time, been distinguished by distraction and tumult. During this year, several agents arrived in Ireland from the exiled Genevese; and, in consequence of their application, every encouragement was given

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1783 to those martyrs to the cause of liberty, by the government, nobility, and people of Ireland, to induce them to form a colony in that kingdom.

The following is an account of the quantity and value of linen exported from Ireland to Great Britain, during this year, ending the 25th of March:—

	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Linen cloth, plain —	15,212,968	1,014,197	18	0
Linen coloured, —	—	—	—	—

The quantity and value exported to every other country, exclusive of Great Britain, during the same period.

	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Linen cloth, plain —	826,737	55,115	16	0
Linen coloured, —	166,127½	13,151	15	1½

The extraordinary decrease of exportation of linens to Great Britain in this year, must principally have arisen from the unsettled state of the country,—from the increased exportation of other countries,—and from the checks occasioned by the vicissitudes of war: it may, perhaps, in some measure, have arisen from the market being glutted by the great export of the preceding year; for, the next year, the quantity increased again.

The Irish linen entitled to bounty, which was exported from England,	<i>Yards.</i>
between January 1782, and January 1783, amounted to —	1,087,561
Irish linen not entitled to bounty, to —	150,266
	—
Total,	1,137,827

The above quantity exported, with and without bounty, is nearly the average for several years past.

During the course of this year, ending March 25th, there were exported from Ireland to the West Indies, 35,960 barrels of herrings.

The increase of the herring-fishery in Ireland, is evident from the following account:—

The average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland for four years, ending the 25th of March, 1767, was 4,672 barrels.

The average annual quantity imported into Ireland, for the same years, was 32,824 barrels.

The average annual quantity of herrings exported from Ireland for four years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, was 24,273 barrels.

The average quantity of herrings imported into Ireland for the same period, was 12,277 barrels.

As the latter were years of war, the increase of exportation is more extraordinary.

The total of fish exported from Ireland to all parts in this year, ending the 25th of March, was, cod, 272 barrels;—ditto, 5 cwt.;—eels, 1½ barrels;—hake, 1,367 cwt. 3 qrs. 10 fish;—herrings, 48,481½ barrels;—ling, 170 cwt.;—salmon, 253 tons.

The total of fish imported into Ireland for the same period, was, anchovies, 294 barrels;—cod, 531 cwt. and 5 fish;—herrings, 4,324 barrels;—ling, 281 cwt. 1 qr. and 5 fish;—oysters, 5 gallons;—salmon, 47 tons; sturgeon, 33 kegs.

The importation was, in all probability, an accidental circumstance.

The oil exported from Ireland, in this year, amounted only to 1 hoghead, 7 gallons of train oil.

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The oil imported into Ireland, in the same period, was as follows, viz.

	Gallons.		Gallons.
Linseed,	25,311½	Sweet,	9,795
Seville,	29,475½	Train,	76,595

In this year only 784 yards of frize were exported from Ireland,—84 to America, and 700 to Flanders: but though the export is so much decreased, the consumption of it by the inhabitants is probably increased. It is remarkable, that frize was the principal woollen manufacture of Ireland, when her wool was much finer than it is at present. The large part of the frizes that came to England were dressed, and, receiving a great degree of manufacture, afforded a considerable profit to this country.

In 1781, 1779 yards, and in 1782, only 800 yards of this fabric were exported, principally to America.

In this year the state of the woollen cloth importation from Great Britain to Ireland is as follows: viz. old drapery, 371,871 yards; new ditto, 420,415 yards.

The importation of Spanish wool into Ireland has been very unequal.

In 1774, was imported 210 cwt. of wool,—48 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Great Britain.

In 1775, was imported 96 cwt.—41 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Great Britain.

In 1776, was imported 328 cwt.—155 of which only was imported from Spain, the rest from Great Britain.

In 1783, was imported 261 cwt.—none from Spain, 5 cwt. from Flanders, and the rest from Great Britain.

It may indeed be presumed, that the consumption of fine woollens has, in some measure, decreased in Ireland, as well as in England, from the introduction of Manchester manufactures of cotton, which are worn as cloathing, and, in particular, so generally for waistcoats and breeches.

But the woollen manufacture of Ireland seems to be taking the most natural and best turn. The new drapery branch advances rapidly: it consumes the wool of the country: it is less difficult in many branches, and requires less skill than the superfine broad cloths. The importation of new drapery decreases, and the exportation is become very considerable.

It may not be improper to observe in this place, that when a parcel is not fit for broad cloth it is applied to the manufacture of worsteds, the finest part to hose and to worsteds for mixing with silk: viz. poplins and tabinets from 1s. 3d. to 6s. 6d. per yard; crapes from 1s. 2d. to 4s. per yard.

The greater part of the combing wool is consumed in worsted for making what is called new drapery in the Book of Rates, viz. shaloon from 6d. to 2s. 8d.; callimanco, 9d. to 2s. 2d.; everlasting, 1s. 3d. to 4s.; fatinet, 2s. to 4s.; camblet, 10d. to 1s. 8d.; stuffs, broad and narrow, single and double, 6d. to 1s. 6d.; plush, 8d. to 3s. 6d. and worsted crapes, from 7d. to 9d. per yard.

In many of these branches Ireland excels: her poplins and tabinets are universally known and admired, particularly with respect to their colours.

The increased importation of silk into that kingdom will appear from the following comparative view.

The

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1783 The quantity of filk imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773.

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands, — — — —	557	15½
Manufactured filk, — — — —	15,786	7½
Raw filk, — — — —	41,793	12½
Thrown dyed, — — — —	96	14
Ditto undyed, — — — —	44,650	13½

The quantity of filk imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands, — — — —	1,864	0
Manufactured filk, — — — —	22,626	3½
Raw filk, — — — —	51,029	1
Thrown, dyed, — — — —	273	4¾
Ditto, undyed, — — — —	63,496	13½

We may here add a five years average quantity of raw and thrown filk imported into England, ending with the present year, with the amount of duties upon the great pound of 24 ounces.

	lb.		s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Raw filk,	599,563	at	4	6	per lb. is	134,901	16	6
Organzine, (16 oz.)	428,199	at	7	4	—	157,006	6	0
						291,908	2	6

The amount of the exportation of filks and mixtures of filks from Ireland, in this year, is as follows:

	lbs.	oz.
Ribbands, — — — —	514	14
Manufactured filk, — — — —	3,329	9
Thrown, dyed, — — — —	309	—
Manufactured, mixed, — — — —	2,064	12

The principal importation of manufactured filks into Ireland from Britain are gauzes, ribbands, alamodes, fattins, plain and figured; perfians, sarcenets, brocades of all kinds, and several other articles: the quantity of manufactured filk from other countries has been very trifling.

With respect to cotton wool, cotton yarn, muslins, and manufactures and mixtures of cotton, we shall give a statement of an average importation of them into the sister kingdom of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, and the same at ten years distance, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

In 1773, cotton wool, 2,550 cwt. 3 qrs. 2¼ lbs.;—cotton yarn, 2,226½ lbs.;—muslins, 194,987¾ yards;—cravats, 122 yards;—calicoes, stained, 3,999 yards;—fustians, 9,618 ends;—manufactures and mixtures of cotton, 18,278l. 16s. 2d. value.

In 1783, cotton wool, 3,236 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.;—cotton yarn, 5,405½ lbs.;—muslins, 55,151 yards;—calicoes, stained, 1,541½ yards;—ditto, white, 547½ yards;—fustians, 15,012¾ yards;—manufactures and mixtures of cotton, 103,119l. 8s. 5½d. value.

A. D.

1783 No cotton yarn, or manufactures and mixtures of cotton, were exported previous to the year 1781: but the exportation of that and the two succeeding years is as follows:

Cotton Yarn.		Manufactures & mixtures of Cotton.		Fustians.
Years.	Lbs.	Value.		Yards.
1781	239	£. 157 7 0		1,108
1782	8,798	414 7 6		
1783	2,436	1,418 1 0		24,384

Ireland makes but little bar iron, and her importation of it has increased near one-third in ten years, as may be seen from the following comparative averages of three years each.

The quantity of iron imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, is as follows:

	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From the East Country,	74,683	3	25½
From Britain,	44,352	1	4½
Total,	119,036	1	4

Ditto, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From the East Country,	98,488	1	9½
From Britain,	74,730	0	4½
Total,	173,278	1	14

A comparative view of the export from Ireland of iron and iron ware for the years already specified.

Ironmong. W. Iron.				Hardware. Ironmong. W. Wrot. Iron. Iron.			
YEARS.	VALUE.	QUANTITY.		YEARS.	VALUE.	QUANTITY.	
	£. s. d.	T. C.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	C. qr. lb. T. C.
1771	29 4 9	9 0		1781	16 3 0	253 6 3	25 0 0 0 0
1772	10 5 6	4 2		1782	22 11 4	2 19 0	75 3 7 0 0
1773	22 13 10	2 4		1783	213 9 6	85 3 9	359 2 0 8 1

The imports into Ireland for this year, ending the 25th of March, 1783, of iron and iron ware, is as follows, viz. hardware to the value of 21,773l. 2s. 10½d.;—iron, 164,187 cwt. 1 qr.;—579,833 knives;—9,797 merimits;—748 pots;—14,865 razors;—scissars, 757 grose, 9 dozens;—scythes, 4,089 dozens;—small parcels, 24,473l. 17s. 5½d. value;—iron ore, 323 tons.

Almost the whole of these articles were imported from Britain except iron, which came from several countries in the following quantities.

	Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
From England,	61,943	2	0	From Denmark and Norway,	1,152	0	14
— Scotland,	3,144	1	0	— East Country,	63	0	0
— Guernsey,	40	3	7	— Germany,	525	0	0
— Jersey,	136	2	14	— Flanders,	728	2	14
— Sweden,	83,489	3	14	— New York,	90	0	0
— Russia,	12,873	1	21				

Since

A. D.
1783

Since the heavy duty was laid on glass in Britain, Ireland has made an extraordinary progress in that manufacture; though, for some time, her imports of this article must be very considerable.

The average account of glass imported for three years, ending the 25th of March in this year, is as follows: 42,504 $\frac{2}{3}$ dozens of bottles;—2,067 $\frac{2}{3}$ case bottles;—22,248 drinking glasses;—4,524 vials;—3,675l. 11s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. worth of glass ware.

The export of ditto for this year was, 468 dozen of bottles;—9,910 drinking glasses.

The importation of stockings into Ireland in this year.

					Pairs.
Cotton,	—	—	—	—	23,744
Silk,	—	—	—	—	1,042
Silk and Thread,	—	—	—	—	192
Silk and Worsted,	—	—	—	—	580
Thread,	—	—	—	—	60,570
Woollen,	—	—	—	—	1,318
Worsted,	—	—	—	—	8,944

The exportation of stockings from Ireland in the same period,

					Dozen.	Pairs.
Thread,	—	—	—	—	79	3
Woollen,	—	—	—	—	259	0
Worsted,	—	—	—	—	393	0

The average import of hats into Ireland of three years, ending the 25th of March in the present year, amounts to 2,012.

The export of the same article from thence during the present and the two succeeding years is as follows: viz. in 1781, 1,404;—in 1782, 450;—in 1783, 3,211.

Whereby it appears that the exportation exceeds the importation of this article.

The imports of upholstery into Ireland, in this year, amounts to 8,289l. 2s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; and the exports to 630l. 18s.

The increasing importation of pot ashes into Ireland, proves the encrease of the linen manufacture, of which it is such an essential article: in the year, ending the 25th of March, 1783, the importation from all parts amounted to 130,893 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs. which being valued at 25s. per cwt. amounts to 163,616l. 15s. 11d. The average account, however, of the importation of this article, for three years, ending at the same date, amounts to no more than 81,028 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.; though that is one-third more than the average importation of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773.

Books and paper were imported into Ireland to the following amount, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783, viz. 207l. 14s. 8d $\frac{1}{4}$ d. worth of bound books;—271 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs. of unbound ditto;—85,257 pressing leaves of paper;—4,772 printing reams of ditto;—5,749 writing reams of ditto.

The quantity of books and paper exported from Ireland, in this year, was 174 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. of unbound books;—302 reams of writing paper;—98 reams of brown paper.

The

A. D.

1783 The tillage of Ireland is well known to be greatly encreased, and that her improvements in agriculture are very considerable; it is remarkable, therefore, that her importation of beer should increase, as it appears to have done from the following comparative view of the imports and exports of that article.

The quantity of beer imported into and exported from Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1773, amounted to 45,585 $\frac{1}{2}$ barrels imported, and 3,550 $\frac{1}{3}$ ditto exported.

The quantity of beer imported and exported on an average of a similar period, ending the 25th of March 1783, was 54,546 $\frac{2}{3}$ barrels imported, and 959 ditto exported.

Within these ten years Ireland has become an exporter of corn to a considerable amount, as will appear by the following accounts.

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March 1773.

	Qrs.	Busshels.		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Barley and malt,	28,320	4	—	Flour,	61,127	1 21
Beans and peas,	1,204	0	—		Barrels.	
Oats, —	742	4	—	Oatmeal, —	9,906 $\frac{2}{3}$	
Wheat, —	22,824	4	—	Wheat Meal,	2,457 $\frac{1}{2}$	

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on the same average.

	Qrs.	Busshels.		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Barley and malt,	3,222	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Flour,	151	3 9 $\frac{1}{3}$
Beans and peas,	194	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—		Barrels.	
Oats, —	11,478	2	—	Oatmeal,	15,787 $\frac{1}{3}$	
Wheat, —	1,011 $\frac{1}{3}$	0	—	Groats,	—	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rye, —	17	0	—			

An account of corn and meal imported into Ireland, on an average of three years, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

	Qrs.	Busshels.		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Barley and malt,	38,550	4	—	Flour,	22,208	0 25 $\frac{3}{4}$
Beans and peas,	411	2 $\frac{2}{3}$	—		Barrels.	
Oats, —	490	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Oatmeal,	3,466 $\frac{1}{6}$	
Wheat, —	649	2	—			

An account of corn and meal exported from Ireland, on an average of the same period.

	Qrs.	Busshels.		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Barley and malt,	9,848	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Flour,	85,284	3 11 $\frac{2}{3}$
Beans and peas,	1,645	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	—		Barrels.	
Oats, —	53,285	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	—	Groats,	—	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wheat, —	30,123	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	—	Oatmeal,	11,577 $\frac{1}{4}$	
				Wheat meal,	66 $\frac{2}{3}$	

A. D.

1783

An account of goods and merchandize, being the growth, product, or manufacture of Asia, imported into Great Britain, and from thence exported to Ireland, for one year, ending the 25th of March, 1783.

DENOMINATIONS.	QUANTITY.		VALUE.		
	Lbs.	Yards.	£.	s.	d.
Stained Callico, —	—	1,203	300	15	0
White ditto, —	—	480	96	0	0
Muslin, —	—	37,272	6,522	12	0
India Silks and Stuffs, —	—	—	—	—	—
Drugs, — —	—	—	9,121	2	4
Cinnamon, —	634	—	252	8	0
Cloves, — —	561	—	280	10	0
Mace, — —	788	—	656	13	4
Nutmegs, — —	5,388	—	2,694	0	0
Pepper, — —	62,719	—	4,181	5	4
Pimento, — —	2,082	—	104	2	0
Rice, — —	1,106	—	8	17	9
Saltpetre, — —	186,515	—	4,163	5	7½
China raw Silks, —	32,656	—	32,656	0	0
Bohea Tea, —	1,478,080	—	147,808	0	0
Green ditto, —	570,838	—	171,251	8	0
			£.	s.	d.
Total value of Asiatic merchandize imported from Great Britain in 1781,			382,152	7	1
Ditto, in 1782, — — — —			293,720	15	6½
Ditto, in 1783, — — — —			380,096	19	4½
Total value of the three years, — — — —			1,055,970	2	0

To prove the very essential injury done to the revenues by smuggling, the following account of tea imported annually into Europe was published about this time.

	Pounds Weight.	
By the English, — —	6,000,000	
By Foreigners, — —	13,000,000	
Total, — —	19,000,000	

Above two-thirds of the whole were proved to be consumed in Great Britain and Ireland.

The last season 14,000,000 lbs. of tea, besides silks, nankeens, &c. were exported from China to Europe in 16 foreign ships, viz. 8 Portuguese, 1 Tuscan, 4 Danes, and 3 Swedes, great part of which was smuggled into these kingdoms.

About 40 foreign ships sailed for the East Indies and China in 1782 and 1783, with the intention of returning to Europe and America in 1784, laden chiefly with tea; the profits of which voyages would in a great measure depend on British smuggling.

EXPORTS

1783. EXPORTS from IRELAND to ENGLAND for one Year, ending the 25th of March 1783, distinguishing each principal Article, and specifying its Value.

IMPORTS into IRELAND.

[illegible]

A. D.
1783

IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Drapery	311,563	14	0	Oil	1,159	10	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Drugs	9,120	19	10	Printing stuffs	403	13	9
Dying stuffs	40,543	12	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	Paper	39,191	3	8
Earthen ware	19,433	13	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pasteboard	941	0	0
Elephant's teeth	97	5	0	Pewter	4,700	0	0
Fans	61	5	0	Pictures	332	0	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish	1,039	18	0	Pitch	694	13	6
Flax, dressed and undressed	3,527	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Plates of tin	2,459	16	8
Flints	15	6	0	Pot ashes	18,547	15	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Furs	336	4	10	Quilts	70	0	0
Fustians	3,888	13	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ribband filk	3,707	10	0
Glass	7,413	10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rezin	83	6	3
Gloves	111	9	0	Sadler's ware	314	12	2
Grindstones	39	3	4	Salt	51,227	5	3
Groceries	10,981	14	3	Saltpetre	8,326	11	3
Gunpowder	1,287	16	3	Seeds	6,275	13	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Haberdashery	15,692	13	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sider	1,406	16	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hair, goats and camels	651	13	6	Silk, manufactured	50,214	7	6
Hats	2,934	15	0	— raw	32,656	0	0
Hemp, undressed and feed	1,998	6	0	— thrown,	63,736	17	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hops	56,767	16	3	Slates	745	3	4
Horses	150	0	0	Skins	925	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hardware	21,758	5	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Snuff	59	17	6
Ironmongers' ware	86,839	15	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Soap	6	9	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Iron ore	242	5	0	Soap ashes	10	0	0
Ivory, wrought	381	3	0	Spirits,—brandy	141	19	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lace	389	8	0	— geneva			
Lamp black	218	5	1	— rum	7,540	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Latten	48	7	6	Stationary ware	357	1	5
Lead	10,198	6	9	Steel	507	16	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lead ore	40	0	0	Stockings	11,369	2	10
Lime, lemon and orange juice	88	4	0	Sugar—candy	16	0	0
Linen—British, damask, diaper,				— loaf	56,116	17	6
lawns, muslins, &c.	27,595	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	— Muscovade	200,530	5	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Linseed	2,040	12	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	— small parcels	2,639	16	0
Linen, cotton, and filk, Bri-				Sword blades	118	2	0
tish manufacture	118,921	3	10	Sword cutlers' ware	466	19	4
Mats	215	10	8	Tar	590	2	0
Meal	1,821	2	8	Tea	319,059	8	8
Millinery ware	6,931	11	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tobacco	31,566	0	6
Mill stones	75	0	0	Tow	400	0	0
Oakum	640	10	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	Toys	7,973	7	11
Oranges and lemons	52	13	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Twine	64	17	6
				Tiles			

A. D.

1783

IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Tiles	82,017	0	0	Wine—Rhenish	1	0	0
Tin	906	1	3	— Spanish	40	0	0
Velvet	24	0	0	Wood	4,791	12	0
Vinegar	83	11	10½	Wire	5,354	18	4¾
Upholstery ware	6,314	10	3	Wool—cotton, estridge, &c.			
Walnuts, &c.	200	16	3	Spanish	13,410	19	9
Wax, bees	348	14	6	Yarn	4,531	3	9
Whalebone	67	8	9	— Small parcels	13,066	13	6
Wine—French	3,231	5	0				
— Port	303	0	0	Total,	2,148,782	12	3

EXPORTS from IRELAND into SCOTLAND.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Beef	14,437	15	0	Horns, ox and cows	175	16	8
Books	46	5	0	Hides, tanned & untanned	6,191	13	0
Bread	22	4	0	Linen cloth	66,017	8	0
Bullocks and cows	1,165	0	0	Meal,—flour and oats	3,043	4	0
Barrels, empty	10	5	0	Ox guts	4	6	8
Butter	10,315	15	0	Pork	1,777	17	0
Candles	2	5	10	Salt	3	15	0
Cheese	5	0	0	Skins, calves	499	11	3
Corn—barley, malt & oats	3,844	3	0	Soap	131	13	4
Feathers	11	15	0	Starch	5	6	8
Hams	491	8	9	Tallow	1,253	7	6
Herrings	106	10	0	Tongues	208	19	0
Glue	33	6	8	Yarn,—linen and worsted	17,922	10	9
Glass ware	11	0	0	— Small parcels	810	6	3
Hogs lard	93	3	9				
Horses	2,256	0	0	Total,	123,897	12	1

IMPORTS from SCOTLAND into IRELAND.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Ale	127	6	8	Coals	15,785	5	0
Apparel	206	5	1	Corn	525	3	6
Bark	351	1	0	Drapery	1,534	13	6
Beer	190	5	0	Drugs	0	2	6
Books, bound & unbound	677	5	0	Dying stuffs	2,245	4	5
Bullion, silver	0	6	8	Earthen ware	60	1	9
Bottles of glass	261	4	6	Fish	1,548	11	0
Bricks	2	12	0	Flax, undrest	275	3	1½
Coaches, &c.	509	0	0	Tuftans	0	11	3
							Glass

IMPORTS CONTINUED.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Glass cases and ware	33	9	6	Seeds	-	-	425 6 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gloves	5	8	0	Silk, manufactured	9,020	6	9
Hulled barley	73	3	0	Sider	5	0	0
Haberdashery	3,869	0	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Slates	27	13	4
Hats	13	10	0	Skins	145	9	3
Horses	1,920	0	0	Snuff	0	18	9
Hard ware	12	3	4	Soap	553	7	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ironmonger's ware	2,909	7	11	Spirits, rum	2,206	1	9
Ivory, wrought	4	19	0	Starch	3	4	7
Lead, white	6	13	4	Stationary ware	0	8	0
Linen—British, cambricks,				Steel	254	13	8
canvas, coloured &				Stockings	2,861	5	0
muslins	2,513	15	10	Sugar—Loaf	3,113	5	0
Kenting	40,235	12	0	Muscovade	22,758	15	0
Lawns	11,175	11	0	Small parcels	0	15	0
Cotton and silk, Bri-				Tar	286	16	0
tish manufactures	5,388	14	6	Tobacco	28,812	8	0
Linseed	301	10	0	Toys	0	18	6
Mats	1	1	4	Tin	199	1	3
Meal flour	868	4	0	Upholstery ware	1,929	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Millinery ware	1,714	4	2	Wine, Port	35	0	0
Oil	1,31	14	8	Wood	806	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Painting stuffs	10	6	8	Wool, cotton	376	15	0
Paper	1,078	8	0	Wire, latten	3	0	0
Pitch	5	0	0	Yarn	201	2	0
Plates of tin	0	8	4	Small parcels	639	7	1
Pot ashes	23	2	6				
Sadler's ware	75	0	0				
Salt	493	16	9				
				Total,	171,670	14	7 $\frac{1}{4}$

Notwithstanding Scotland is so great a linen country, it appears that the value of the linen she takes from Ireland is above half of all her imports from that country. On the other hand, Ireland takes not much less of other sorts of linens from Scotland, kenting alone amounting to forty thousand two hundred and thirty-five pounds, and lawns to eleven thousand one hundred and seventy-five pounds in this year. This proves, that different fabrics of the same manufacture may flourish in the neighbouring countries to the advantage of both. Between fifty and sixty years ago, the annual exports from Ireland to Scotland were about eleven thousand nine hundred pounds, above one half of which was oatmeal. The imports from Scotland were thirty-one thousand seven hundred pounds, of which coals were above one-third; tobacco, seven thousand eight hundred pounds; linen and kenting, three thousand five hundred pounds.

IMPORTS

A. D.
1783

IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1782, to CHRISTMAS 1783.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.			EXPORTS.		
Africa,	£. 47,860	12	9	£. 787,563	8	—
Canaries,	4,362	2	—	15,259	—	10
Denmark and Norway,	131,854	2	8	181,801	2	9
East Country,	830,428	8	3	152,819	14	8
East Indies,	1,301,495	13	3	701,455	18	8
Flanders,	1,112,467	17	7	1,051,427	15	5
France,	87,119	8	2	101,167	7	10
Germany,	684,110	14	8	1,259,752	15	7
Holland,	485,384	12	1	752,520	18	10
Ireland,	1,611,904	—	1	2,430,472	15	6
Isle of Man,	13,738	1	10	26,526	11	—
Italy,	276,777	7	8	456,925	3	1
Madeira,	3,303	18	10	27,208	1	4
Portugal,	322,547	10	4	613,104	13	—
Russia,	1,320,766	18	1	219,859	15	2
Spain,	422,486	5	3	594,045	19	6
Gibraltar,	56	6	1	77,389	6	6
Streights,	—	—	—	118,001	15	10
Sweden,	239,928	12	7	66,656	16	4
Turkey,	48,983	2	6	42,666	10	—
Venice,	50,125	7	5	26,655	5	3
Greenland,	35,014	16	6	147	15	4
Island of Alderney,	37	7	6	1,231	18	9
Island of Guernsey,	57,618	11	7	51,967	—	11
Island of Jersey,	14,276	12	1	20,333	8	3
Island of Sark,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada,	81,290	—	1	391,345	8	2
Cape Breton,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina,	77,740	11	3	250,381	10	—
Florida,	25,638	10	8	25,356	16	4
Georgia,	5,764	17	6	22,682	10	5
Hudson's Bay,	7,554	19	1	7,098	18	—
New England,	26,526	4	9	202,555	17	—
Newfoundland,	60,247	12	1	160,254	12	—
New York,	102,778	12	10	603,152	3	—
Nova Scotia,	2,904	19	5	234,290	3	—
Pennsylvania,	30,853	18	2	245,258	1	8
Island of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia & Maryland,	105,062	19	—	219,834	6	9
Anguilla,	10,680	16	3	—	—	—
Antigua,	77,912	7	1	157,490	7	6
Bahamas,	1,356	7	2	2,527	17	8
Barbadoes,	106,766	5	10	178,710	4	8
Bermuda,	11,308	2	4	95,109	14	1
Dominica,	80,701	7	5	42,830	12	3
Grenada,	224,399	12	9	53,463	9	4
Honduras Bay,	1,917	18	6	3,490	14	2
Jamaica,	1,688,394	19	—	1,057,588	6	7
Montserrat,	39,166	15	6	13,686	11	10
Musquito Shore,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevis,	35,564	13	1	11,913	16	1
St. Croix,	223	9	10	—	—	—
St. Eustatius,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Kitt's,	216,490	2	11	68,305	15	11
St. Lucia,	183,849	18	5	45,782	8	11
St. Thomas's,	8,713	19	8	58,740	9	10
St. Vincent's,	76,506	12	4	20,404	10	8
Tobago,	114,925	—	2	13,465	17	10
Tortola,	138,706	16	—	49,154	1	—
Demerara,	351	16	4	—	—	—
St. Domingo,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surinam,	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Martin's,	1,071	14	9	31	15	—
Cape Francois,	6,509	19	8	—	—	—
Havannah,	2,072	4	3	—	—	—
New Orleans,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres,	—	—	—	3,921	5	—
Northern Fishery,	163	18	6	—	—	—
Southern Fishery,	2,106	—	—	53	6	—
Foreign coin and bullion,	—	—	—	709,283	2	6
Prize goods,	463,362	14	4	725,665	10	5
Total,	13,122,235	6	8	15,450,778	1	11

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An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1783.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	4,541	13,695
Wheat Flour, &c.	25,952	981
Rye, —	431	2,873
Malt, —	45,919	—
Barley, —	5,395	1,321
Oats, —	7,978	2,405
Oat-meal, —	1,193	—
Beans, —	10,164	27
Peas, —	2,701	—

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	4,869	—
Wheat Flour, —	1,904	—
Rye, —	60	—
Barley, —	1,383	—
Barley-meal, —	47	—
Oats, —	185	—
Oatmeal, —	64	—
Peas and Beans, —	67	—

IMPORTED.

1783.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	484,921
Wheat Flour, —	20,240
Rye, —	74,465
Rye Flour, —	124
Barley, —	87,884
Oats, —	166,222
Oat-meal, —	9
Beans, —	17,435
Peas, —	1,087
Indian corn, —	2

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	78,844
Wheat Flour, —	178
Rye, —	6,706
Barley, —	57,030
Barley-meal, —	12
Oats, —	61,504
Oatmeal, —	1,207
Peas, —	13,093

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the course of this year, amounted to 13,117l. 9s. 3½d.

The drawbacks, during the same period, were 461l. 11s. 3d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same time, was 179l. 15s. 5d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 17,062l. 9s. 2d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 3,547l. 4s. 3d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 6s. 7d.; rye, 4s. 5½d.; barley, 3s. 9½d.; oats, 2s. 5¾d.; beans, 4s. 4¼d.

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	8,739
— females	8,352
	17,091

Buried, males	9,730
— females	9,299
	19,029

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	South Sea Stock	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Nav Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Omni. Pre.
January,	{ 121 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 61 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 60 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 87 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 18 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 12 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	140	—	—	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	4s. 5s.	—
	{ 135 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 70 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 70 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 87 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{5}$	—	—	—	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	dif.	—
February,	{ 133 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 68 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 67 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 85 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{1}{10}$	{ 13 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	3 dif.	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 a 3	—
	{ 135	{ 69 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 68 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 86	{ 20 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 13 $\frac{1}{10}$	—	—	—	145 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	dif.	—
March,	{ 133 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 68 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 67 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 86 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 20 $\frac{3}{10}$	{ 13 $\frac{7}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	67 $\frac{1}{4}$	66 $\frac{1}{8}$	141 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	9 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	—
	{ 134 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 68 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 69 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 87 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 20 $\frac{1}{10}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{8}$	76	67 $\frac{7}{8}$	66 $\frac{7}{8}$	141 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—	—	—
April,	{ 131	{ 61 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 63 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 85	{ 19 $\frac{1}{10}$	{ 13 $\frac{3}{4}$	75	—	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	137 $\frac{1}{4}$	63 $\frac{3}{8}$	1 dif.	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 dif.	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	{ 133 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 67 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 68 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 88 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{8}$	76	—	67 $\frac{1}{8}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 p.	11	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
May,	{ 130 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 65 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 66 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 84 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 20 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{10}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	66 $\frac{1}{4}$	138	65 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 p.	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 a 4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	{ 133 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 67 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 68	{ 88 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{8}$	76	—	67 $\frac{1}{8}$	138 $\frac{3}{4}$	67 $\frac{7}{8}$	5 dif.	10 $\frac{1}{8}$	dif.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
June,	{ 129 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 65 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 66 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 83 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 14 $\frac{1}{4}$	75	—	65	137 $\frac{3}{4}$	61 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 a 6	9 $\frac{7}{8}$	1 a 3	3
	{ 131 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 66 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 67 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 85 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 20 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 14 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	—	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	139 $\frac{1}{4}$	62 $\frac{3}{4}$	dif.	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	dif.	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
July,	{ 123 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 61 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 61 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 80 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 19	{ 13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	132	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 dif.	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 dif.	1 par
	{ 128 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 65 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 66 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 84	{ 20 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	64 $\frac{5}{8}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	61	25 p.	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
August,	{ 126 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 64 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 62 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 82 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 19 $\frac{1}{8}$	{ 13 $\frac{1}{4}$	70	—	61 $\frac{5}{8}$	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 dif.	11 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	$\frac{1}{4}$ pr.
	{ 128	{ 65	{ 64 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 84 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 19 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 13 $\frac{3}{8}$	71	—	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	139	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 p.	12	10	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pr.
Septemb.	{ 126 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 64 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 58	{ 82 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 18 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 12 $\frac{7}{8}$	71	—	61 $\frac{1}{8}$	139	59 $\frac{5}{8}$	16 d.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 a 8	6 dif.
	{ 128 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 66	{ 64 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 84 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 19 $\frac{3}{8}$	{ 13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	148	61 $\frac{3}{8}$	28 d.	14	dif.	$\frac{1}{2}$ par
October,	{ 116	{ 56 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 57 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 75	{ 17 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 12 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	7 a 32	12	9 a 14	—
	{ 127 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 59 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 60 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 80 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 18 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 13	—	—	60 $\frac{5}{8}$	143	58 $\frac{1}{4}$	dif.	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	dif.	—
Novemb.	{ 117	{ 57 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 57 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 75 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 12 $\frac{7}{8}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	120	54 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 a 28	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 a 12	—
	{ 118 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 60 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 60 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 77 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 18 $\frac{5}{8}$	{ 13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{4}$	139	56 $\frac{1}{4}$	dif.	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	dif.	—
Decemb.	{ 112 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 55 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 56 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 71 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 17 $\frac{3}{4}$	{ 12 $\frac{3}{4}$	68	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	120	52 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	—
	{ 115 $\frac{1}{4}$	{ 57 $\frac{7}{8}$	{ 58 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 75 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 17	{ 13	69	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	127	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	80	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	—

The following bills relative to trade and commerce were passed in this year.

A bill to permit the importation of all sorts of corn, grain and meal, upon the payment of the low duties, for a limited time.

To continue an act, entitled, "An act more effectually to prevent his Majesty's enemies from being supplied with ships or vessels from Great Britain."

To continue several laws relating to the regulating fees of officers of the customs and naval officers in America;—to the allowing the exportation of certain quantities of wheat and other articles, to his Majesty's sugar colonies in America;—to the permitting the exportation of tobacco pipe clay from this kingdom to the British sugar colonies or plantations in the West Indies;—and to the repealing the duties upon pot and pearl ashes, and upon wood and wood ashes, imported into Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof.

For continuing several acts passed for the better regulation of lastage and ballastage in the river Thames.

For allowing the importation of rice, paddy, Indian corn, Indian meal, and maize, free from duty, for a limited time.

For further continuing an act for allowing the importation of fine organzine Italian thrown filk in any ships or vessels, for a limited time.

To amend an act, entitled, "An act for the more effectually securing the duties upon tobacco; to prohibit the importation of currants into Great Britain in small packages; to repeal

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For the more effectual draining and preserving certain lands and grounds within the level of Hatfield Chace and parts adjacent, in the counties of York, Lincoln and Nottingham.

For allowing the importation of goods from Europe in neutral ships into the islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada and the Grenadines, and of goods, the produce or manufacture of the said islands, and of Tobago and St. Lucia, from thence into this kingdom, in such ships, upon payment of the British Plantation duties, for a limited time: for permitting certain goods, the produce of those islands, secured in warehouses in this kingdom, to be taken out, on payment of the British Plantation duties, and to cancel certain bonds entered into for payment of the duties due thereon: for further continuing certain temporary acts for the encouragement of trade; and to repeal an act, made in the 22d year of his Majesty's reign, for allowing the importation of goods the growth of St. Christopher, Nevis and Montserrat, into any of his Majesty's dominions in Europe or America.

For rendering more effectual the provisions contained in an act of the 13th year of King George the First, for preventing frauds and abuses in the dying trade.

For rendering the payment of creditors more equal and expeditious in that part of Great Britain called Scotland; and for making perpetual so much of an act, made in the 12th of his present Majesty's reign, as relates to bills and promissory notes.

For granting a bounty upon the exportation of British and Irish buckrams and tillettings, British and Irish linens, British calicoes and cottons, or cotton mixed with linen, printed, painted, stained or dyed in Great Britain.

To repeal so much of two acts as prohibits trade and intercourse with the United States of America.

For removing and preventing all doubts which have arisen, or might arise, concerning the exclusive rights of the Parliament and courts of Ireland in matters of legislation and judicature, &c. &c.

To amend and render more effectual several acts for making a navigable canal from the Trent to the Mersey; and a branch from the said canal to Frog Hall, and a rail way from thence to or near Caldon, in the county of Stafford.

To discharge and indemnify the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, from all damages, interest and losses, in respect to their not making regular payment of certain sums due, and to become due to the public; and to allow further time for such payment; and to enable the Company to borrow a certain sum of money; and to make a dividend of 4l. per cent. to the proprietors, at Midsummer, 1783.

For making and maintaining a navigable canal from the river Thames or Isis, at or near Lechlade, to join and communicate with the Stroudwater canal at Wallbridge, near the town of Stroud; and also a collateral cut from the said canal at or near Siddington, to or near the town of Cirencester, in the counties of Gloucester and Wilts.

For preventing certain instruments from being required from ships belonging to the United States of America; and to give to his Majesty, for a limited time, certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the subjects of his Majesty's dominions and the inhabitants of the said United States.

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For empowering persons navigating vessels upon the river Trent, between a place called Wilden Ferry, in the counties of Derby and Leicester, or one of them, and the town of Burton upon Trent, in the county of Stafford, to haul the same with horses.

For altering and varying the powers of an act for making the river Douglas, alias Asland, navigable from the river Ribble to Wigan, in the county palatine of Lancaster; and for enabling the Company of Proprietors of the Leeds and Liverpool canals, incorporated by an act passed in the 10th year of his present Majesty's reign, to purchase the said river navigation; for amending the said last-mentioned act for incorporating and consolidating the said two navigations; and for other purposes.

For improving the navigation of the river Trent, from a place called Wilden Ferry, in the counties of Derby and Leicester, or one of them, to Gainsborough, in the county of Lincoln; and for empowering persons, navigating vessels thereon, to haul the same with horses.

For repealing an act, entitled, "An act for charging a stamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other notes payable otherwise than on demand," and for granting new stamp duties on bills of exchange, promissory and other notes; and also stamp duties on receipts.

For enabling the commissioners of supply of the several counties therein mentioned, in Scotland, to assess and levy certain sums for relieving such of the inhabitants of the said counties as have been reduced to indigence by the failure of the last year's crop of corn; and to enable his Majesty, during the next recess of Parliament, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to permit the importation of corn into the said counties for a limited time, and in ships or vessels belonging to any state in amity with his Majesty, navigated by foreign seamen.

For allowing the drawback of the whole duty of customs upon the exportation of rice.

For altering the duties and drawbacks upon plain muslins, unrated muslins and calicoes, and Nanquin cloths.

For repealing so much of an act, as took off the duties payable upon the importation of that species of blue called smalts; and for granting relief to the owners and proprietors of tobacco of the growth of Scotland, which shall not be worth the duties imposed thereon by an act of the last session of Parliament.

For the better preventing frauds in the landing and removing of wines in this kingdom; and to prevent the relanding of refined sugar, entered for exportation, to obtain the drawback or bounty.

For the more effectual encouragement of the manufactures of flax and cotton in Great Britain.

For the further encouraging the growth of coffee and cocoa nuts, in his Majesty's islands and plantations in America.

For preventing the exportation of corn, grain, or meal, with a bounty, during the operation of two acts, passed in this present session of Parliament, for allowing the importation of corn.

For making and maintaining a navigable canal from a place near Hider's Green, in the county of Stafford, to Broadwater fire engine, and six collateral cuts from the same to several coal mines; and also a navigable canal from or near the town of Birmingham, to join the Coventry canal, at or near Fazeley, in the parish of Tamworth, in the said county of Stafford, with a collateral cut to the lower part of the said town of Birmingham.

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For the sale of prize goods secured in warehouses in this kingdom, for which the duties are not paid, or the goods exported, within a limited time.

For granting to his Majesty several additional and new duties upon stamped vellum, parchment and paper; and also for repealing certain exemptions from the stamp duties.

For granting to his Majesty a stamp duty on licences to be taken out by certain persons uttering or vending medicines: and certain stamp duties on all medicines sold under such licences, or under the authority of his Majesty's letters patent.

For taking away from the commissioners of excise in England and Scotland, the power of compounding with persons making malt not to sell, but to be consumed in their own private families.

For repealing an act, intituled, "An Act for vesting the Fort of Senegal, and its dependencies, in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa:" and to vest, as well the said Fort and its dependencies, as all other the British forts and settlements upon the coast of Africa, lying between the port of Sallee and Cape Rouge, together with all the property, estate and effects of the Company of Merchants trading to Africa, in or upon the said forts, settlements, and their dependencies, in his Majesty; and for securing, extending and improving the trade to Africa; and for vesting James Fort, in the river Gambia, and its dependencies, and all other the British forts and settlements between the port of Sallee and Cape Rouge, in the Company of Merchants trading to Africa; and for securing and regulating the trade to Africa.

For appointing and enabling commissioners further to examine, take, and state the public accounts of the kingdom.

For the more effectual preventing the illegal importation of foreign spirits, and for putting a stop to the private distillation of British made spirituous liquors; for explaining part of the act imposing a duty on male servants; to amend and rectify a mistake in an act of the last session of Parliament, with respect to the removal of tea from one part of the kingdom to the other parts thereof; and for preventing vexatious actions against officers of excise, acting in pursuance of the authority given by excise statutes.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—				£.	s.	d.
For 110,000 seamen, including 25,291 marines,	—	—	—	5,406,000	0	0
For the ordinary of the navy, &c.	—	—	—	451,989	12	11
Towards building and repairing ships of war, &c.	—	—	—	311,843	1	4
For the charge of the office of ordnance for the land service, &c.	—	—	—	630,612	12	10
Ordnance extraordinaries of 1782,	—	—	—	819,259	2	9
For compensation to proprietors of lands near Chatham,	—	—	—	4,949	11	5
For the pay of the land-forces, including invalids, &c.	—	—	—	1,356,919	10	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Extraordinaries of the army,	—	—	—	1,259,875	13	7
For maintaining guards and garrisons in and out of the kingdom,	—	—	—	1,626,108	10	5
For the pay of the general and staff-officers, &c.	—	—	—	26,454	2	1
For the militia, and four regiments of fencible men in North Britain,	—	—	—	165,418	10	0
For the charge of four regiments of foot and additional, from Ireland,	—	—	—	41,140	16	2
For the charge of five corps formed in North America,	—	—	—	63,126	17	4
On account of the reduced officers of his Majesty's land forces, &c.	—	—	—	133,522	13	10
Carried over,				12,297,220	14	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

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			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,		12,297,220	14	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
For allowances to several officers and private gentlemen of the two reduced troops of horse-guards, &c.	—	—	574	18	4
To several officers late in the service of the States-General,	—	—	3,513	9	0
For half-pay to certain provincial corps,	—	—	15,000	0	0
For one regiment of light dragoons, and seven battalions of foot in the East Indies, for 1783,			15,074	10	0
For the charge of eight battalions of foot,	—	—	40,241	14	0
For extra charge of forces serving abroad,	—	—	136,888	11	6
For the charge of out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, &c.	—	—	96,972	17	11
For 200 letter-men of Chelsea Hospital,	—	—	1,830	0	0
For the charge of three Hanoverian battalions at Gibraltar,	—	—	28,917	11	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
For ditto of two ditto, in Great Britain,	—	—	9,320	13	6
For the charge of 13,472 Hessian troops and subsidy,	—	—	367,203	9	10
For ditto of 2,257 men of the troops of Hanau and subsidy,	—	—	65,158	12	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
To make good the deficiencies in sums voted for ditto in 1781,			3,317	14	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
For the charge of 4,300 Brunswickers,	—	—	93,947	15	8
Ditto of one regiment of Waldeck, and subsidy,	—	—	17,498	3	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
For a corps of foot of Anhalt Zerbst, including artillery,	—	—	23,818	11	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
For ditto of 1,781 troops of the Margrave of Anspach, &c.	—	—	51,501	19	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deficiency in votes for ditto in 1782,	—	—	6,419	9	9
For artillery for the foreign troops,	—	—	27,683	14	0
For repairing, &c. British forts and settlements on the coast of Africa,			13,000	0	0
To the Levant Company,	—	—	5,000	0	0
On account of new roads and bridges in the Highlands of North Britain,			5,329	10	6
Towards carrying on the buildings at Somerset House,	—	—	25,000	0	0
Towards rebuilding Newgate,	—	—	10,000	0	0
To the commissioners of public accounts,	—	—	7,500	0	0
To the officers of the board of works, for surveying the losses occasioned by the riots in 1780,	—	—	1,006	15	0
For the relief of certain American civil officers, &c.	—	—	76,849	16	6
Towards enabling his Majesty to make a separate establishment for the Prince of Wales,	—	—	60,000	0	0
To make good to his Majesty the like sum issued by his Majesty's orders, in pursuance of the addresses of the House of Commons,			11,236	4	0
To Mr. Duncan Campbell, for employing convicts in heaving ballast on the Thames,	—	—	14,452	17	3
For the civil establishment of the island of St. John,	—	—	3,150	0	0
Ditto of Georgia,	—	—	3,340	0	0
Ditto of Nova Scotia,	—	—	5,943	9	5
Ditto of East Florida,	—	—	3,950	0	0
Ditto of West Florida,	—	—	4,970	4	1
Ditto of Senegambia,	—	—	2,450	0	0
Carried forward,			13,555,283	7	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

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		£.	s.	d.
	Brought over,	13,555,283	7	11½
Towards discharging certain Exchequer bills,	—	1,500,000	0	0
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills, &c.	—	1,495,000	0	0
For ditto, on the vote of credit of 1782,	—	1,000,000	0	0
For discharging certain other Exchequer bills,	—	405,000	0	0
To make good deficiency of annuity fund of 1758,	—	46,444	0	11
Ditto of annuity fund, 1778,	—	160,191	8	8½
Ditto of annuity fund, 1779,	—	63,888	8	7½
Ditto of annuity fund, 1780,	—	141,871	7	7¾
Ditto of annuity fund, 1782,	—	138,682	17	4
Ditto of grants for 1782,	—	282,502	8	2
Vote of credit,	—	1,000,000	0	0
Total Supplies,		19,788,863	19	4

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Duty on malt,	750,000	0	0
Land tax at 4s.	2,000,000	0	0
By loans and Exchequer bills, to be charged on next aids,	1,000,000	0	0
By annuities and lottery,	12,480,000	0	0
By Exchequer bills,	1,500,000	0	0
By monies out of the sinking fund,	2,200,000	0	0
By savings in the hands of the paymaster-general of the army,	68,745	0	0
By ditto, in the hands of ditto,	8,647	15	4
By ditto, paid into the Exchequer by Sir R. Taylor,	1,843	11	10
Total of Ways and Means,		20,009,236	7 2
Total amount of Supplies granted,		19,788,863	19 4
Excess of Ways and Means,		220,372	7 10

The following additional duties and new taxes were imposed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Stamp duty on bills of exchange for 1782, doubled,	56,000	0	0
The same extended to foreign bills, promissory notes, &c.	44,000	0	0
Additional stamp duties on probates of wills and legacies,	40,000	0	0
Ditto on bonds, law proceedings, admissions to the inns of court, &c.	60,000	0	0
Ditto on stage-coaches and diligences,	25,000	0	0
A new stamp duty of 2d. upon receipts for 2l. and not amounting to 20l.; and of 4d. if amounting to or exceeding 20l.	250,000	0	0
Ditto of 6s. upon every agreement; of 2s. 6d. upon any inventory or catalogue; and of 5s. upon every award,	10,000	0	0
Duty on turnpike roads and inclosure bills,	20,000	0	0
Carried forward,		505,000	0 0

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	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,	505,000	0	0
A stamp duty of 3d. upon entry of any burial, marriage, birth or, christening, — — — — —	15,000	0	0
Ditto of 20s. for a licence to persons vending medicines; and 3d. upon every box, packet, or bottle of medicines, under the value of 2s. 6d.; 6d. when of 2s. 6d. value; and 1s. when of 5s. and upwards, —	15,000	0	0
A duty of 4s. annually upon every waggon, &c. with three or four wheels, and of 2s. annually when with two wheels, —	25,000	0	0
Total of additional and new taxes,	560,000	0	0
Interest of the loan of twelve millions,	560,000	0	0

1784 This year opens with another fruitless attempt to arrange the affairs of India.—The general objects to be provided for in the formation of a system for India, were the civil and military government, the revenues, and the commerce. The question respecting to whom the territorial right of the East India Company's possessions belonged, had never been finally settled: there were claims to be ascertained, and interests to be divided. The claims of prescription and general justice were to be attended to, and the happiness of the natives to be considered. Besides, it was a matter of serious reflection, what would be the probable effects of the government of India on the government of Britain; how it might affect our constitution in point of influence: and by what means it might add to the strength, without endangering the rights of the nation.

In order to secure these points, the following principles were laid down as indispensable:—The civil and military government of India, or, in other words, the imperial dominion of our territories in the East, ought to be placed under other controul than that of the company of merchants in Leadenhall-street,—the controul of the genuine and legitimate executive branch of the constitution. The commerce of the Company should be left as much as possible to their superintendence: commerce ought always to be left to the merchant unshackled, unembarrassed with interferences, which might impede its current, and diminish its security: and, lastly, any possible bad effects from the government of India on the constitution of Great Britain, must be sedulously avoided. Such were the land-marks of the system proposed to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the 24th of January, he moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better government and management of the affairs of the East India Company.

By this bill, commissioners were to be appointed by his Majesty, from the members of his privy council, who were authorized and empowered, from time to time, to check, superintend, and controul all acts, operations, and concerns, which in anywise relate to the civil or military government or revenues of the territories and possessions of the said United Company in the East Indies.

It then enacts, That the said board shall have access to all papers and documents of the said United Company, and shall be furnished with copies thereof, and of all the proceedings of all general and special courts of proprietors, and of the court of directors; and also copies of all dispatches which the directors shall receive from any of their servants in the East Indies, immediately after the arrival thereof; and also copies of all letters, orders, and instructions what-

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soever, relating to the civil or military government or revenues of the British territorial possessions in the East Indies, proposed to be sent to any of the servants of his Majesty, or of the said Company, in the East Indies; and that the court of directors shall, and are required to pay due obedience to, and shall be governed and bound by such orders and directions as they shall, from time to time, receive from the said board, touching the civil or military government and revenue of the territories and possessions of the Company.

And it was further enacted, That the said board shall return the copies of the said dispatches to the court of directors, with their approbation thereof, or their reasons, at large, for disapproving the same, together with instructions in respect thereto; and that the court of directors shall thereupon dispatch and send the letters, orders, and instructions, so approved or amended, to their servants in India, without further delay; and no letters, orders, or instructions, until after such previous communication thereof to the said board, shall, at any time, be sent or dispatched by the said directors to the East Indies, on any account or pretence whatsoever.

It further enacts, That in case the said board shall send any orders, which, in the opinion of the said court of directors, shall relate to points not connected with the civil or military government and revenues of the said territories and possessions in India, it shall be lawful for them to apply by petition to his Majesty in council touching such order; and the decision of the council thereon shall be final and conclusive.

It then enacts, That the nomination of the commanders in chief shall be vested in his Majesty; and that the said commanders in chief shall always be second in council. It also vests in his Majesty the power to remove any governor-general, presidents, and members of the councils of any British settlements in India; and enacts, that all vacancies in the offices aforesaid, shall be supplied by the court of directors, subject to the approbation of his Majesty; and in case the person nominated by the said court shall not be approved by his Majesty, the said court shall proceed to nominate some other person, subject to the approbation or disallowance of his Majesty, in the same manner as before directed; and so, *toties quoties*, until some person or persons shall be nominated or appointed who shall be approved by his Majesty; and in case the court of directors shall not, within a certain number of days, hereafter to be specified, proceed to supply the same, then it shall be lawful for his Majesty to appoint a person to supply the office so vacant.

Lastly, it was enacted, That no order or resolution of any general court of proprietors shall be available to revoke or rescind, or in any respect to affect the proceeding of the court of directors, after his Majesty's pleasure shall have been signified upon the same.

The debates on this bill turned principally on its merits and demerits as compared with the India bill rejected in the House of Lords. It was argued by Mr. Pitt, that, in his bill, all the rights enjoyed by the Company under their charter, were preserved inviolate, as far as was compatible with the public safety. When, in answer to this, it was asserted, that nothing but the shadow of power was left to the Company; and that, by the negative reserved to the crown in all matters whatsoever, the substance was, in effect, vested there,—he contended, that whatever might be the effect of the bill, yet having previously obtained the consent, both of the court of proprietors and directors, to all the regulations contained in it, no violation of privileges could be inferred, where there was a voluntary surrender of them. The second point in which the new bill differed from the former was this,—that it left where it found all the patronage of the Company, the commander in chief excepted. On the other side, it was maintained, that the whole military patronage would almost necessarily follow the appointment of the

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1784 the commander in chief. In the former bill, the transferring the entire government of the Company's affairs to the new board, the nomination of commissioners in Parliament, and the permanent duration of their authority for a term of four years, had occasioned great alarm, as creating a new power dangerous to the constitution. The object of the present bill was merely controul, and the exercise of that controul, like every branch of the executive government, was referred to the discretion of the crown. In answer to this, it was observed, that to leave one set of men, who had not only been convicted of having notoriously abused their power, but were universally allowed to be unfit for the trust reposed in them, in the possession of dominion, merely for the purpose of being controuled by another, was to establish dominion and weakness in government upon system.—In short, the bill, on its second reading, on the 23d of January, was rejected by a very small majority.

The loss of this bill was followed by a very general expectation that there would be a new administration, or an immediate dissolution of the Parliament. The ministry, however, notwithstanding the superiority of the opposition in the House of Commons, maintained their ground, and the Parliament was not dissolved till some time afterwards. Mr. Pitt, at this time, was a rare example of patience and magnanimity: he considered himself as bound by the duty he owed his country, to remain a minister without a majority in Parliament, and to suffer the daily mortifications which may be naturally supposed to arise from such a situation.

In this state of public distraction, it was the wish of many of the country gentlemen that the opposing parties should coalesce, and that an administration might be so formed, as to ensure that lasting unanimity among the leaders of the different parties which would forward the operations of government, and restore national tranquillity: for this desirable end, negotiations were commenced, but without success; and as the opposition did not dare to stop the voting of the supplies, though some of its leaders were disposed to adopt that desperate measure, the ministry at length triumphed; and, on the 24th of March, Parliament was prorogued, and the day following dissolved by proclamation.

In the speech which the King delivered from the throne, he took occasion to observe, that, on a full consideration of the present situation of affairs, and of the extraordinary circumstances which produced it, he was induced to put an end to the sitting of Parliament. He felt it a duty which he owed to the constitution and to the country, to recur as speedily as possible to the sense of the people, by the mode of a general election. He trusted that this measure would obviate the mischiefs arising from the unhappy divisions and distractions that had lately subsisted, and that the important subjects which required the consideration of Parliament, might be afterwards proceeded upon with less interruption and happier effect. He could have no other object than to preserve the true principles of the constitution, and to employ the powers entrusted to him by law, for the only end for which they were given,—the good of his people.

Though the opposition had possessed a very uncommon and commanding majority in the House of Commons, the nation at large was extremely favourable to the present administration. At the very moment when Mr. Pitt could not carry a single question in Parliament, the common-council of London voted their thanks to him, for his able, upright, and disinterested conduct, as First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the present alarming and critical juncture of affairs. The court also unanimously voted the freedom of the city, to be presented to Mr. Pitt in a gold box, as a mark of gratitude for, and approbation

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1784 of, his zeal and assiduity in supporting the legal prerogatives of the crown and the constitutional rights of the people. A motion was also made in the same court, to acknowledge, with the deepest gratitude, the late timely interference of the House of Lords for the preservation of our excellent constitution, and the security of the rights of every branch of the legislature; which, after some debate, was carried by a great majority.

It had been a favourite assertion of many of the leading members of opposition, that the popularity of Mr. Pitt and his colleagues did not possess any solid foundation, and that a very short time would suffice for its destruction: but this opinion found an unreserved contradiction in almost every part of the kingdom. The great and memorable contest between administration and the House of Commons had continued much longer than any one could have foreseen or expected; and, during the struggle, the popularity of the former, instead of diminishing, seemed daily to grow more extensive and unquestionable. Never was any decision, if taken in all its parts, more full and explicit than that which was given by the people in the general election which immediately followed the dissolution of Parliament.

The meeting of the new Parliament took place on the 18th of May; and it is from this term that we may date, in a great degree, the parliamentary existence of Mr. Pitt's administration: the remainder of the last session may rather be said to have been consumed in a contest between two powerful parties, than in the characteristic exertions of a regular government.

The former speaker being again seated in the chair of the House of Commons, on the 19th of May the session was opened by a speech from the throne. Upon this occasion, the King expressed the greatest satisfaction at meeting his Parliament at this time, after having recurred, in such an important moment, to the sense of his people. That he entertained a just and confident reliance, that the assembly which he addressed was animated with the same sentiments of loyalty, and the same attachment to the constitution, which had been so fully manifested in every part of the kingdom. The objects peculiarly recommended to their attention, were the alarming progress of frauds in the revenue, the framing of such commercial regulations as were immediately necessary, and the providing for the good government of our possessions in the East Indies. On this latter subject, he hoped Parliament would not lose sight of the effect which the measures they adopted might have on our own constitution and dearest interests at home. His Majesty declared he had no wish but to consult the prosperity of his people, by a constant attention to every object of national concern, by an uniform adherence to the true principles of our free constitution, and by supporting and maintaining in their just balance, the rights and privileges of every branch of the legislature.

On the 20th of the same month, the following definitive treaty of peace and friendship between his Majesty the King of Great Britain and their High Mightinesses the States-General of the United Provinces of the Low Countries, was signed at Paris, by the plenipotentiaries of the respective powers:—

“ Article I. There shall be a christian, universal, and perpetual peace, as well by sea as by land, and a sincere and constant friendship shall be re-established between his Britannic Majesty, his heirs and successors, kingdoms, dominions, and subjects, and their High Mightinesses the said States General, and their dominions and subjects, of what quality or condition soever they be, without exception either of places or persons; so that the high contracting parties shall give the greatest attention to the maintaining between themselves, and their said dominions and subjects, this reciprocal friendship and intercourse, without permitting hereafter, on either part, any kind of hostilities to be committed, either by sea or by land, for any cause,

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1784 cause or under any pretence whatsoever: and they shall carefully avoid, for the future, every thing which might prejudice the union happily re-established, endeavouring, on the contrary, to procure reciprocally for each other, on every occasion, whatever may contribute to their mutual glory, interests, and advantage, without giving any assistance or protection, directly or indirectly, to those who would do any injury to either of the high contracting parties.— There shall be a general oblivion of every thing which may have been done or committed, before or since the commencement of the war which is just ended.

“ II. With respect to the honours of the flag, and the salute at sea, by the ships of the Republic towards those of his Britannic Majesty, the same custom shall be respectively followed as was practised before the commencement of the war which is just ended.

“ III. All the prisoners taken on either side, as well by land as by sea, and the hostages carried away or given during the war, and who have not yet been restored, conformably to the preliminary treaty, shall be restored as soon as possible, without ransom; each power respectively discharging the advances which shall have been made for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners, by the sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained, according to the receipts, attested accounts, and other authentic vouchers, which shall be furnished on each side: and sureties shall be reciprocally given for the payment of the debts which the prisoners may have contracted in the countries where they may have been detained until their entire release. And all ships, as well men of war as merchant ships, which may have been taken since the expiration of the terms agreed upon for the cessation of hostilities by sea, shall likewise be restored *bonâ fide*, with all their crews and cargoes: and the execution of this article shall be proceeded upon immediately after the exchange of the ratifications of this treaty.

“ IV. The States General of the United Provinces cede and guaranty, in full right, to his Britannic Majesty, the town of Negapatnam, with the dependencies thereof; but in consideration of the importance which the States General of the United Provinces annex to the possession of the aforesaid town, the King of Great Britain, as a proof of his good will towards the States, promises, notwithstanding this cession, to receive and treat with them for the restitution of the said town, in case the Lords the States should hereafter have an equivalent to offer him.

“ V. The King of Great Britain shall restore to the States General of the United Provinces, Trinquemale, as also all the other towns, forts, harbours, and settlements, which in the course of the war have been conquered in any part of the world whatever by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, or by those of the English East India Company, and of which he should be in possession; the whole in the condition in which they shall be found.

“ VI. The States General of the United Provinces promise and engage, not to obstruct the navigation of the British subjects in the Eastern Seas.

“ VII. Whereas differences have arisen between the English African Company and the Dutch West India Company, relative to the navigation on the coasts of Africa, as also on the subject of Cape Apollonia; for preventing all cause of complaint between the subjects of the two nations on those coasts, it is agreed, that commissaries shall be named, on each side, to make suitable arrangements on these points.

“ VIII. All the countries and territories which may have been, or which may be conquered, in any part of the world whatsoever, by the arms of his Britannic Majesty, as well as by those of the States General, which are not included in the present treaty, neither under the

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1784 head of cessions, nor under the head of restitutions, shall be restored without difficulty, and without requiring any compensation.

“ IX. Whereas by the ninth article of the preliminary treaty a period was stipulated and appointed by the high contracting parties, for the restitutions and evacuations to be made, on each side, of the towns, fortresses, and territories which might have been conquered by their respective arms, and of which they might be in possession, excepting such as had been ceded; and whereas the term specified in the aforesaid ninth article is already expired; the high contracting parties engage reciprocally, and *bonâ fide*, to observe the said stipulations, and in case, by any accident or otherwise, the cessions and restitutions therein comprised should not have taken place, to expedite immediately the necessary orders, to the end that there may be no farther delay in the accomplishment of the said stipulations.

“ X. His Britannic Majesty and their High Mightinesses the aforesaid States General, promise to observe sincerely, and *bonâ fide*, all the articles contained and established in this present treaty; and they will not suffer the same to be infringed, directly or indirectly, by their respective subjects; and the said high contracting parties guaranty to each other, generally and reciprocally, all the stipulations of the present articles.

“ XI. The solemn ratifications of the present treaty, prepared in good and due form, shall be exchanged in this city of Paris, between the high contracting parties, in the space of one month, or sooner if it can be done, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present treaty.

“ In witness whereof, we, the under-written, their ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary, have signed with our hands, in their names, and by virtue of our full powers, the present definitive treaty, and have caused the seals of our arms to be affixed thereto.

“ Done at Paris, the twentieth of May, 1784.

(L. S.) DANIEL HAILES.

(L. S.) LESTEVENON VAN BERKENROODE.

(L. S.) BRANTSSEN.

Soon after the meeting of Parliament, a petition of the proprietors of landed estates in his Majesty's sugar colonies, and of the merchants of London trading thereto, and other persons interested therein, was presented to the House of Commons.—This petition sets forth, that the petitioners, or their ancestors, have invested their fortunes in the settlement, cultivation, and commerce of the said colonies, to the extent, upon the most moderate computation, of more than 50,000,000*l.* sterling; whereby the said colonies, and the commerce thereon dependent, have become the most considerable source of navigation and national wealth which Great Britain possesses out of the limits of the mother country; and that whilst the said colonies, as well directly as through the medium of other dependent branches of trade, afford a market for British commodities, to a very great amount, and constant employment for more than 100,000 tons of shipping, in the direct intercourse between Great Britain and the said colonies; while the clear income of the estates in the said colonies, after defraying the expences of those who are resident there, is almost entirely spent in the mother country: wherefore the petitioners conceive, that no part of the national property can be more beneficially employed for the public than theirs, nor any interests better entitled to the protection of the legislature; and that the disasters and expences of the late war, coinciding with many natural calamities, and with the effect of the heavy increase of duties imposed upon the staple articles of their produce, have reduced the petitioners to great distress and difficulty, and endanger their ability,

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1784 without relief from Parliament, to carry on the cultivation of the said islands; which failing, the navigation, and all the other subordinate interests and advantages dependent on the cultivation, must fail with it; and that the said sugar colonies cannot produce any quantity of provisions at all adequate to their wants, without misapplying thereto that culture which the public good requires to be appropriated to those articles of commerce which that climate alone produces: and that Barbadoes and the leeward islands do not afford any supply of lumber whatever.

The petition also states, that the said sugar colonies never have been, and, to the perfect conviction of the petitioners, never can be supplied, so as steadily to support the culture thereof, with lumber and provisions from any other country but those which form the United States of America; seeing that the gulf and river of St. Laurence are frozen up half the year, and that the open half includes the hurricane months in the West Indies; and that the want of inhabitants, and the rigour of the climate, as well in Nova Scotia as in Canada, frustrate all just expectation of those colonies becoming speedily, if ever productive, to any considerable degree, of those articles of which the West Indies stand in need: and that the said sugar colonies never have paid, and to the perfect conviction of the petitioners, never can pay, for such lumber and provisions, but by that part of their produce which being superfluous to Great Britain, has never found a market therein, consisting chiefly of rum, of which the dominions now forming the United States, used, in time of peace, to consume a greater quantity than Great Britain and Ireland did, even before the consumption into Great Britain was discouraged, by the heavy duties imposed thereon, to the equal detriment of the revenue and of the interests of the petitioners: and this superfluous produce, if not consumed in Great Britain or the dominions of the United States, must be lost, seeing the consumption of the additional inhabitants which Canada and Nova Scotia may acquire, can amount to a mere trifle: thus, the value of the supplies which this superfluous produce ought to pay for, would become a drain of so much cash from the mother country, as must, in payment for such lumber and provisions, be drawn out of (what would otherwise rest in Great Britain) the value of the remaining produce of the sugar colonies sold there, and which would be paid, through the medium of America, to the French, and other foreign sugar colonies, for supplies similar to those which we should thus, in the first instance, throw away.

It also sets forth, that the intercourse naturally arising out of these mutual wants of his Majesty's sugar colonies and the dominions now forming the United States of America, was, in time of peace, chiefly carried on by American shipping, of which a large proportion consisted of sloops, schooners, and other small vessels, adapted to the cheap conveyance of bulky commodities, for a short navigation, and not at all fit for or employed in the conveyance of sugar from the West Indies to Europe, but which took back the returns for their own cargoes in the superfluous produce before-mentioned: and that although the direct intercourse with America in American ships, is, by his Majesty's proclamation, freely permitted to the petitioners fellow-subjects, not only in Great Britain, but in Ireland, it is withheld from the petitioners, to whom, of all his Majesty's subjects, it is the most essential; and the said intercourse stands restrained to British-built ships; by which if the trade were to be carried, they must generally proceed from Great Britain to America in ballast, at a ruinous expence, and greatly enhance to the consumer the price of those commodities which form the foundation of all his culture, and which the petitioners conceive that every principle of commercial policy coincides in requiring to be conveyed to his hand at the cheapest rate possible.

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It then states, that additional duties upon the consumption of the said superfluous produce of his Majesty's sugar colonies in the dominions of the American states, and on British ships trading thither, have been imposed upon the express ground of Great Britain prohibiting that intercourse by American vessels, which the French sugar colonies not only admit, but, with true policy, invite; whereby a preference most dangerous to our essential interests is given to the foreign sugar colonies, in the demand for those commodities which there is no natural obstacle to their supplying as well as we can, although their regulations had hitherto prevented it: and that, under all these circumstances, the petitioners are impelled, by every public and private duty, in the most explicit terms to inform the House, that if, by means of this prohibition, the British sugar colonies are deprived of a market for that part of their produce which is superfluous to Great Britain and Ireland, and loaded with the additional expence of procuring lumber and provisions, above stated, which seems the inevitable consequence of persevering therein, the cultivation of the said sugar colonies cannot be carried on at all, nor any of them to advantage: for which reasons, the petitioners are convinced, and submit to the House, that far from being favourable to British navigation, the prohibition in question is big with destruction to one of its principal sources; and, if it should be persisted in, his Majesty's sugar colonies must, in the natural course of things, sink together with the navigation, revenues, and all the complicated public interests thereon dependent, in one common ruin with the private fortunes of the petitioners, &c. &c.

This petition strikes at the very root of the navigation act, which is the basis of our great maritime power, and has given us the trade of the world: it was therefore ordered to lay upon the table, as a matter of future consideration.

A very principal object of attention during this session of Parliament were the regulations that were adopted upon the subject of smuggling, and particularly the act of Parliament commonly called the Commutation Act.

A committee had been appointed early in the last session of the preceding Parliament to enquire into the illicit practices used in defrauding the revenue; in consequence of which, three reports were delivered in, which entered very much into a detail of the subject, and were considered as exhibiting very important matter for the melioration of the revenue. On the 11th of February, the chairman of the committee had moved a resolution, stating, that the illicit practice had greatly increased,—that the public revenue was defrauded to the extent of not less than two millions per annum,—and that these enormities and national losses merited the early serious attention of Parliament.

Soon after the meeting of the new Parliament, the subject of these reports, and of the laws in being for the prevention of smuggling, was referred to a committee of the whole House.—On the 21st of June, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved that the duties of customs and excise payable on teas, do cease and determine. This motion was made as a preliminary to certain resolutions which were to form the basis of a law to prevent smuggling. This motion was grounded on the following observations on the illicit trade of this kingdom.

That this illicit trade had for some years past been carried to an amazing height, and was become very alarming to the revenue in many of its branches, but more particularly in the article of tea, is matter of universal notoriety. Tea was said, with great reason, to be the staple of smuggling; for though the contraband trade extended to a variety of articles, yet tea was such a principal commodity in this illicit trade, that if any means could be devised to prevent the smuggling of tea, it was generally believed, as it has since turned out, that the other

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1784 and lesser branches could hardly give encouragement to the practice, especially if the regulations which were now projecting should be adopted.

The amount of the duty on tea was, at this period, between 700,000*l.* and 800,000*l.* and as it was proposed by Government not to raise upon tea in future above 169,000*l.* there would be a falling off of at least 600,000*l.* per annum. Though the reason for lowering the duty at all, was to take away the temptation to smuggling by diminishing the profits, there did not appear, in order to effect this purpose, to be any occasion to take off the whole of the duty; for, if we take into consideration the market price of teas in the other European countries,—that the price also of insurance and freight, in so hazardous a trade, was near 25*l.* per cent. to the shore,—that the insurance for the inland carriage of it in this kingdom, was about 10*l.* per cent. more,—the profit upon the whole could not be reckoned at more than 5*l.* per cent. because the voyage from the continent to England might be very often repeated in the course of the year, so that the 5*l.* per cent. might, upon the whole of the smuggler's capital, be reckoned in the end at 50*l.* per cent. per annum. It was evident, therefore, that considering the expences attending the sea and inland insurances, with the freight and profit, the smuggler must sell at 40*l.* per cent. above the prime cost.

The plan therefore, that was proposed, was to take off all the excise duty on tea, and impose a custom duty of 12*l.* 10*s.* on bohea tea: this it was apprehended would ruin the smuggling trade in that article: on the finer kind of teas a higher duty would be laid; 15*l.* per cent. on Souchong, &c.; 20*l.* on Singlo and Hyson, and 30*l.* on Congo.

We have already observed, that the total annual importation of teas into Europe amounted to about 19,000,000 *lbs.* above two-thirds of which quantity was consumed in Great Britain and Ireland, though the legal importation was not quite 6,000,000; consequently the quantity annually smuggled must have been above 7,000,000 *lbs.* According to this calculation, the people of England were considerably under-rated at the number of 6,000,000. Of these, it was said that 2,000,000 would be relieved from the payment of the present duty on tea, without being obliged to contribute a farthing towards the tax which would be proposed as a substitution; the other 4,000,000, it was calculated, could, one with another, consume three pounds of tea each in the year, for each pound of which they, at this time, paid on an average 2*s.* 7*d.* duty: this duty, or the principal part of it, being taken off, they could, of course, afford to pay to a substituted tax, which was proposed to be raised in the following manner:

On every house with seven windows, and which house was also rated to the house tax, it was intended to lay an additional tax of 3*s.* and so on charging 8*s.* for every house of eight windows,—9*s.* for those of nine windows,—10*s.* 6*d.* for those of ten windows, and so on adding 2*s.* 6*d.* for each window up to twenty-four,—and still rising up to one hundred and eighty windows, for which 20*l.* per annum should be paid over and above the duty at present paid on windows and houses. This regulation was calculated to produce above 700,000*l.*; so that with the new duty on tea, the produce would be near 900,000*l.* According to this plan, therefore, it appeared that the public revenue would be a considerable gainer, and, at the same time, the people would have no reason to complain of additional burdens. As for example: an house which should be rated at 10*s.* 6*d.* would contain a number of inhabitants sufficient to consume such a quantity of tea, as, from its reduced price, would more than indemnify them from the additional duty.

In England, Scotland and Wales, it was calculated that there were about 699,058 houses, which might be divided into the following different classes: 286,293 houses under-7 windows;

211,483

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1784 211,483 houses, from 8 to 10 windows; 38,324, of 11 ditto; 24,919, from 12 to 13; 67,652, from 14 to 19; 52,652, of 20 windows and upwards; and 17,732 houses in Scotland. Of these, about 200,000, as being excused from the house tax, would pay nothing to this new tax, and the inhabitants, being of the poorer sort, would be wholly delivered from the duty on tea. The great benefits; therefore, that would arise from this new regulation, would be the checking, or rather the absolute ruin of the smuggling trade,—that the fair trader would be relieved, in a great measure, from the disagreeable visits of excise officers, and that the East India Company would possess the very great advantage of supplying the whole kingdom with tea instead of less than one half; or, in other words, would find a vent for 13,000,000 lbs. of tea, when at present it does not dispose of quite 6,000,000: the Company also, would hereby be enabled to take 20 additional large ships into their service, which would find employ for 2,000 seamen, a circumstance in itself of great national importance. Such a plan, therefore, which, while it increased the public revenue, produced a saving to the people, was surely calculated to meet the approbation of Parliament, and of the nation at large. It was certainly not the interest of the India Company, having the market of tea exclusively, to avail themselves of their monopoly to raise the prices of that article, because the smugglers who had hitherto carried on their trade against the high duties, would then carry it on against the high prices: nevertheless, that the people might not be left at the mercy of the Company, it was proposed that, if ever the price of tea, at their sales, should exceed a given price, that the ports of the kingdom should then be thrown open for the importation of tea from the continent.

Such were the principles on which the motion was founded for determining the duties on teas, and which was followed by various resolutions, that served as the foundation of the act since known by the name of the Commutation Act.

The principal objection to this bill, arose from the idea that it abandoned a certain national income of near a million per annum, upon an uncertain expectation of benefiting the revenue by putting an end to the practice of smuggling, and to make amends for the defalcation by laying a tax of a very unpopular and oppressive nature. But the arguments used in support of this objection, were by no means sufficient to obstruct the progress, or alter the form of a measure, which had such great public advantages in view.

That this bill gave up the existing duties and excise on teas was undoubtedly true, but it proposed to lay another duty in lieu of them; and it proposed an additional tax on windows, not as a new tax, but as a commutation for the portion of the duties on tea that it gave up,—and the reason for such a regulation was to check the pernicious and destructive practice of smuggling. The great and alarming extent to which that illicit trade had arrived, was well known to every one; while the consequences it threatened to the revenue, to commerce, and to the kingdom in general, were so serious, and of such magnitude, that it became highly necessary to take some effectual measures to check, if not to prevent the continuance of smuggling.

With such a view this bill was framed, and there was every reason to expect that it would go further towards extinguishing the practice of smuggling, than any measure that had ever been proposed or adopted for its prevention. Tea was the great basis of the smuggler's trade: if, therefore, that essential article of illicit traffic was taken out of their hands, there was the greatest reason to believe that smuggling would be carried on, at most, to a very trifling and inconsiderable extent. In order, therefore, to effect this necessary and beneficial purpose, the bill proposed to lower the existing duties on tea, and to reduce them in such a degree as should enable the fair trader to rival the smuggler.

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1784 As the duties of customs and excise stood at this time, they amounted to about 50 per cent. on the value of teas of all descriptions; and, according to the present bill, those high duties would be lowered to about a fourth part of that amount,—a reduction that would leave the smuggler so little room for profit, that it would not be worth his while to run the risk to which his illicit trade would be exposed, for the chance of obtaining the small profit that could be gained by his dealing any longer in tea. Every trade, licit or illicit, depends altogether upon the proportion of profit set against the proportion of risque and probable loss, and if this bill should succeed, by lessening the one and increasing the other, in the contraband commerce which it is intended to correct, there could be no doubt of its immediate happy effects.

It is very true that tea, from the Revolution to the present time, has been considered as a fit object of taxation; nevertheless, the duties upon that article might be carried to a point, that would in a great degree destroy themselves, as well as assist in decreasing other branches of the revenue. There is a medium in every thing, a point to which it might be prudent to go, but beyond which it would be extremely unwise to proceed. This was precisely the case with tea, the high duties upon it gave so much profit to the smuggler, that it was the basis of his traffic, and all the regulations that had hitherto been devised, were proved, by constant experience, to be insufficient to prevent the smuggler from making it an article of his illegal commerce, when such a profit might be derived from it. The only possible way, therefore, of curing the evil, was to reduce the duties: nor would that reduction be attended with such a deficiency on the revenue arising from the article itself, as had been stated by some of the enemies to this bill; because the new revenue arising from the diminished duty, *ad valorem*, was not to be calculated upon the quantity of teas that paid the present duties, but upon an infinitely larger quantity, as it was perfectly reasonable to suppose, that, when the duties were so much lowered as to render it no longer worth the smuggler's attention to deal in tea, what was now run into the kingdom, would then be fairly imported, and would add to the revenue by the proportion of the increase of duties which would, in that case, be paid.

With regard to the tax on windows, it is sufficient to observe, that it is not proposed by the bill as a new tax, but as a commutation, and which might reasonably be relied on for its produce, because it is nothing more than an extension of a tax already existing, the efficacy and productiveness of which is a matter of indubitable notoriety. This bill might be considered as a kind of experiment, but was such an one as promised to be very beneficial to the public, by at once preserving and supporting the revenue, and extending the commerce of Great Britain.

This bill met with no inconsiderable opposition in its way to the throne; but the success with which its operations have been attended, and the very beneficial effects it has produced to the public revenues, as well as the many other advantages which are connected with it, will render it a monument to the honour of the minister who framed it for the service of his country.

The Commutation Act was, however, only part, though a very principal one, of the system which Mr. Pitt had formed to check the progress, and, if possible, to annihilate the practice of smuggling; another bill was brought into the House during this session, to aid that beneficial purpose. The objects of this bill were,—to extend the distance from shore at which seizures should be lawful,—to prohibit the building vessels of certain dimensions, and the arming them beyond a certain extent,—and to introduce other regulations tending to the same general object.

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In the committee upon this bill, which sat on the 12th of July, a considerable debate took place on the regulations, rendering the owners of ships amenable for the misconduct of the mariners, which had been originally introduced by the acts of 1779 and 1781, and which were preserved by the present measure. The injustice of such a provision, which made the faults of the servants to redound upon the master, was to annex impunity to guilt and punishment to innocence; so that the hardship fell upon the fair trader, to the exclusion of such as were concerned in articles of illicit commerce. Mr. Baring and Mr. Atkinson, two gentlemen who were concerned in a very extensive line of commerce, declared, that such was the iniquity of these laws, as to determine them, as soon as possible, to cease to have any concern in the article of shipping. In consequence of these representations, Mr. Pitt brought up a clause, the object of which was, to have it declared by a competent authority, whether a seizure of a vessel should be persisted in and prosecuted in the Court of Exchequer to forfeiture under certain cases; such as when a quantity of contraband goods was found on board, to so trifling an amount as to make it evident that the owner could have no concern in the business, and to render it probable that even the master was ignorant of the goods being concealed. This clause certainly tended, in a great degree, to remove the fears and apprehensions of the ship owners and merchants, who, as the laws then stood, were exposed to very great hardships, from the illegal conduct of the sailors employed to navigate their ships. The distance from shore at which a seizure should be considered as legal was extended to six leagues.

As this bill purported to disarm the smuggling vessels, and to increase the limits within which they were liable to forfeiture, and all this in addition to other measures intended to lower the duties on the articles which form the basis of their trade, it was more than probable, that such a combination of restrictive measures would force many thousands of able seamen and active landsmen, either to live in a state of desperate rapine, or to throw themselves into the arms of foreign countries, unless the humanity and wisdom of Parliament would give them encouragement to come home into the class of honest and industrious citizens. On this humane, just, and wise principle, a clause was added to the bill, providing for the indemnity of such offences as should have been committed previously to its passing into a law.

In this session, beside the two bills already mentioned, a third bill passed into a law for the regulation of the duties upon British spirits, and to discontinue, for a limited time, certain imports upon rum and spirits imported from the West Indies, &c.; which three bills comprehended the whole plan of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon the subject of smuggling, so far as it was now submitted to Parliament.

The necessity of allowing a free intercourse between the Sugar Colonies and the United States of America, in American bottoms, had been very much insisted on by many of the West India planters and merchants. We shall therefore give a statement of the allegations and evidence produced, and the opinions of merchants and other persons given to the Committee of Council, extracted from their report of the 31st of May, in this year, on his Majesty's order of reference of the 8th of last March, made upon the representation of the West India planters, &c. purporting to shew the distressed state of his Majesty's Sugar Colonies, by the operation of his Majesty's order of Council of the second of July, 1783.

This representation contains the four following allegations:

“First, That his Majesty's Sugar Colonies are at present in so great distress for want of a free intercourse between them and the United States of America, by American ships, that not a moment should be lost in granting them further relief.

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" Thirdly, That the navigation between the North American Colonies and his Majesty's Sugar Colonies, cannot be effectually carried on by British ships, on account of the heavy expence, uncertainty and delay of such circuitous navigation, beyond that which would attend the direct navigation in American ships.

" Fourthly, That the planters in his Majesty's Sugar Colonies can no otherwise pay for the supplies received from the dominions of the said United States, than by the produce of their estates; which produce, in many instances, does not find any adequate vent in Great Britain, and if not taken off by the North Americans, would remain a dead weight upon all the rest of the produce of the said Sugar Colonies."

The proofs offered in support of, and against these allegations, form a mass of instruction on the subject of our colonial commerce, which is not to be derived from any other source.

In support of the first allegation, an address of the assembly of Jamaica was produced to prove the scarcity of staves, pine boards, plank, and building timber, as well as the votes of the assembly to prove the exorbitant price of flour. In Antigua, it was made to appear, that in October, 1783, provisions were risen nearly 50l. per cent. and that the negro provisions and lumber were at a very high price. Evidence was also brought to prove, that upon the arrival of the order of Council, in the island of Barbadoes, lumber rose instantly from about 7l. to 25l. currency per thousand feet. A letter was also produced from Grenada, dated February 28th, 1784, stating, that every article of lumber was at a war price; and the same kind of evidence was offered to prove a similar scarcity at St. Christopher's and Tortola.

The following abstract of the current prices of lumber and provisions at Kingston in Jamaica, as published in the Kingston Gazette; and also an account of the prices of the said articles in time of peace, was transmitted to the Committee, at their desire.

	Flour per Barrel of 196 lbs.		Staves per Thousand.		Boards, per Plank 1000 Feet.				Pitch Pine Scantling per 1000 Feet.	Shingles.		Wood Hoops.		
			White Oak.	Red Oak.	Common.	Cedar.	Cypresses	Yellow Pine.		Boston	Cedar			
1783, Sept. 20,	£. s.	£. s.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	
— — 24, Pro-	3	10 to 4	0	12	13	10 to —	30 to —		15	2	0	5	10	
— — clamation				to						to				
— — published.				15						2	15			
— — October 18,	6	15 to 7	0	35	20	18 to 20	35 to 40	28	25	30	3	15	7	10
— — November 8,	3	5 to 3	15	35	25	18 to 20	35 to 40	28	25	30	3	15	7	10
1784, January 31,	1	15 to 2	5	25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	3	15	5	10
— — February 21,	1	15		25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	2	0	5	10
— — — 28,	1	15		25	16	10 to 12	35 to 40	12	12	15	2	0	5	10
— — March 20,	1	15		15	12	12 to 13	35 to 40	12	14	18	2	10	5	18
Common peace				10	8			6	6	8			2	15
prices about }	1	5 to 2	5	10	to	5 to 10		to	to	to	2	5	to	10
				12	10			12	12	12			3	10

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And in the letter of the chairman, transmitting this account, it is said, that provisions of all kinds are of so perishable a nature in the West Indies, and the consumption both of provisions and lumber so immense, that, unless the authorised channels of supply are opened, the clandestine ones are not to be relied upon as sufficient to protect the islands from being again reduced to distress, in the course of a very few weeks.

In opposition, however, to these facts, particularly in what regards the present state of the island of Jamaica, there was evidence laid before the Committee to the following effect.

That from the return made of the imports into the several ports of the island, previous to the month of November, 1783, the apprehensions of want in the articles of lumber, &c. by no means warranted the positive and strong assertions contained in the address of the Assembly of Jamaica, to the Governor of that island; and that the Governor of Jamaica had made early and repeated applications to the governors of Nova Scotia and Canada, for an immediate supply of such of the articles as were at that time wanted in the island, but which could not be expected to arrive there to answer the then demand.

The distress which ensued upon the publication of his Majesty's order in Council, was stated to be principally owing to the planters not having expected that any restriction, in this respect, would take place; and having omitted, therefore, to make provision of those several articles by other means: for it is evident, from the abstract of prices current as before stated, as well as from other evidence, that, in the space of about ten weeks, the prices of lumber and provisions began gradually to fall in the island of Jamaica, and continued falling very considerably to the 20th of March last: and further, that from the 12th of December, 1783, to the 17th of March, 1784, inclusive, 75 British vessels, navigated according to law, had arrived at Kingston, with cargoes of lumber and provisions; all which vessels, except about ten, came from the ports of the United States. That these ships brought to Kingston 18,000 barrels of flour,—559,050 staves and heading,—796,253 feet of boards, scantling, &c.—and 1,450,790 shingles: and it was observed, that 18,000 barrels of flour are equal to the consumption of the island for nine months.

There was also laid before the Committee the following account of prices current at Kingston, on the 20th of March, as transmitted from thence.

ARTICLES.		Prices current.			Prices sterling.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Superfine Philadelphia flour, per barrel	—	1	10	0	1	1	5
Common ditto,	per ditto	1	7	6	0	19	7
Ship bread, per cwt.	—	1	5	0	0	17	10½
White oak staves and headings, per thousand		13	0	0	9	5	8¼
Red oak staves,	per ditto	10	0	0	7	2	10½
Pitch Pine boards,	per ditto	12	0	0	8	11	5
Yellow Pine ditto,	per ditto	10	0	0	7	2	10½
Common boards,	per ditto	8	0	0	5	14	3¼
Common shingles,	per ditto	1	5	0	0	17	10½
Mess beef and pork	per ditto	3	0	0	2	2	10¼
Butter	per pound	0	1	0	0	0	8½
Spermaceti candles	per ditto	0	3	6	0	2	6

Evidence was also given to the committee, by two eminent merchants who had resided many years in Jamaica, that they never recollected the article of flour being so cheap, as at this very period, and that many of the other articles would have been thought very reasonable, even before

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1784 fore the war, particularly staves : and as the prices of these articles at Philadelphia, especially of white and red oak staves, had arisen, during and since the war, more than double; it was inferred, that, in proportion to the first cost in America, they were at this time cheaper at Jamaica than before the war.

The Committee also obtained from the same authority the following average prices of lumber and provisions at Kingston, for ten years previous to the war.

				<i>Medium.</i>	
		£.	s.	£.	s.
Superfine flour per barrel, supposed to be 200 lb.	from	2	9	to 2	19
White oak staves from Philadelphia, per 1000	—	10	0	to 14	0
Red oak staves, per ditto, — —	—	8	0	to 12	0
Common boards, per 1000 feet, — —	—	7	0	to 10	0
Cypress and yellow pine boards, — —	—	8	0	to 11	0
Pitch, pine, scantling and boards — —	—	9	0	to 12	0
Boston shingles, per 1000 feet, — —	—	0	15	to 1	5
Cedar and cypress shingles, per 1000 feet, — —	—	3	0	to 3	10
Wood hoops from America, per 1000, — —	—	5	0	to 8	0
Ditto from Great Britain, — —	—	10	0	to 15	0

The prices of the before-mentioned articles are very variable in Jamaica. The above are wholesale medium prices; the retail ones would be proportionably higher.

Flour, before the war, was usually sold by the 100 lb.—it was never under 20s. the 100 lb. frequently as high as 35s. and 40s. and sometimes 45s.

White oak staves from Philadelphia, with proportion of heading, the long thousand of 1200;—they had been known as low as 8l. and as high as 22l.

Red oak staves, the long thousand;—they have been known as low as 7l. and as high as 20l.

Common boards, per 1000 feet;—they have been known as low as 5l. and as high as 15l.

Cypress and yellow pine boards, per 1000 feet;—they have been as low as 6l. and as high as 15l.

Pitch, pine, scantling and boards;—they have been known as low as 8l. and as high as 18l.

Cedar and cypress shingles, per 1000 feet;—they have been known as low as 2l. 15s. and as high as 3l. 15s.

To shew, at one view, the difference in the prices current of lumber and provisions at Kingston, on the 20th of March, and the prices of the same article prior to the war, the Committee inserted in their report the following tables :

Comparative state of the prices current of lumber and provisions at Kingston in Jamaica, on the 20th of March, according to the two accounts delivered in to the Committee.

<i>FIRST ACCOUNT.</i>				£.	£.	s.	d.
Superfine flour, per barrel of 196 lb.	—	—	—		1	15	0
White oak staves, per 1000,	—	—	—		15	0	0
Red oak ditto, per ditto,	—	—	—		12	0	0
Common boards, per 1000 feet,	—	—	—	12 to 15		0	0
Cedar,	—	—	—	35 to 40		0	0
Cypress,	—	—	—	12		0	0
Yellow pine,	—	—	—	14		0	0
Pitch pine scantling, per 1000 feet,	—	—	—	18		0	0
Shingles, Boston,	—	—	—	2	10		0
Cedar shingles	—	—	—	5		0	0
Wood hoops, per 1000,	—	—	—	18		0	0

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SECOND ACCOUNT.

£. s. d.

Superfine Philadelphia flour, per bushel,	—	—	1	10	0
White oak staves for headings, per thousand,	—	—	13	0	0
Red oak staves, per ditto,	—	—	10	0	0
Common boards, per ditto,	—	—	8	0	0
Yellow pine, per ditto,	—	—	10	0	0
Pitch pine boards, per ditto,	—	—	12	0	0
Common shingles,	—	—	1	5	0

Comparative state of the average prices of lumber and provisions at Kingston in Jamaica, before the war, according to the two accounts delivered in to the Committee.

FIRST ACCOUNT.

Medium.

	£. s.	£. s.	£. s. d.
Superfine flour, per barrel of 196 lbs.	1 5 to	2 5	1 15 0
White oak staves, per thousand,	10 0 to	12 0	11 0 0
Red oak staves, per ditto,	8 0 to	10 0	9 0 0
Common boards, per thousand feet,	5 0 to	10 0	7 10 0
Cypress and yellow pine, per ditto,	6 0 to	12 0	9 0 0
Pitch pine scantling, per ditto,	8 0 to	12 0	10 0 0
Shingles, Boston,	2 5		
Ditto, cedar,	2 15 to	3 15	3 2 6
Wood hoops, per thousand,	10		

SECOND ACCOUNT.

Medium.

	£. s.	£. s.	£. s. d.
Superfine flour, per barrel,	2 9 to	2 19	2 14 0
White oak staves, Philadelphia, per thousand,	10 0 to	14 0	12 0 0
Red oak staves, per ditto,	8 0 to	12 0	10 0 0
Common boards, per ditto,	7 0 to	10 0	8 10 0
Cypress and yellow pine boards	8 0 to	11 0	9 10 0
Pitch pine, scantling and boards	9 0 to	12 0	10 10 0
Shingles, Boston,	0 15 to	1 6	1 0 0
Ditto, cedar and cypress,	3 0 to	3 10	3 5 0
Wood hoops from America,	5 0 to	8 0	6 10 0
Ditto, from Great Britain,	10 0 to	15 0	12 10 0

To throw some light on these two contradictory accounts, the Committee continued to examine certain merchants of great commercial knowledge and character, who declared, that they never considered the prices current, published in the Kingston Royal Gazette, as very exact; that they have known the actual prices to vary during the time that the prices have appeared in the Gazette to be the same. That besides they are generally the highest retail prices, and at the longest credit, which is commonly about twelve months. That the aforesaid prices current of the 20th of March, were agreeable to the prices sent from their house at Kingston in Jamaica, and were taken from real sales; and that the difference between the said prices sent them, and those published in the Kingston Royal Gazette, arose from the former being cargo prices, paid for in cash, and that the latter were retail prices with profit and credit.

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It also appeared to the committee, that neither Antigua, Barbadoes, or Dominica, had any real ground for apprehending a scarcity of lumber, provisions, &c. from his Majesty's order in council.

It likewise further appeared, that a great part of the rum casks lately made use of in Jamaica, were puncheons that carried out dry goods from Great Britain, or puncheon packs; that puncheon packs may be shipped from London at 14s. sterling; and, including freight and charge of setting them up, will not cost the planter more than 25s. or 30s. each; which is as low a price as was known during ten years preceding the war. The current prices of white-oak staves at Philadelphia and London were also nearly the same; being, at the former of those places, 6l. per thousand; and, at the latter, 6l. 5s.

In support of the second allegation, it was asserted, that the colonies of North America which still remain under the dominion of Great Britain, were not capable of supplying the West India islands with provisions and lumber in a degree proportionate to their wants. That the crops of wheat in Canada are very uncertain; and that during the late war, the army, amounting to no more than 15,000 men, was supplied entirely from England.—That though the white oak of Canada is very good for staves, the other species of lumber are of an inferior quality; and that such is the scarcity of hands in that colony to get wood, as to make the price of labour to be from half a dollar to a dollar per day. With respect to Nova Scotia, it was alleged, that though the increase of inhabitants lately gone there, might, in time, lead to a supply of grain, lumber, and the other articles from that colony, yet, at present, Nova Scotia itself is supplied with them from other parts.

On the other hand, it appeared from numerous respectable authorities, that the province of Canada is able to export great quantities of wheat and flour, for the consumption of the British West India islands.—That from the year 1771 to 1775 inclusive, there was exported from Canada annually, an average of 265,000 bushels of wheat; and that the common price of the grain before the war, did not exceed 3s. per bushel; and that, although various causes co-operated, during the war, to diminish the cultivation of the country, no flour was imported, in that period, into Canada, except for the use of the troops and Indians.

It was also further represented, that the exportation of grain from Canada will not only revive, but increase, if the West India market is secured to it; and that an annual export of 300,000 bushels may be depended upon from that quarter; while, from the erection of many new mills, &c. the flour will, in future, be much finer, more free from bran, and fitter for exportation, than it had hitherto been. It also appeared, that great quantities of lumber can be furnished from Canada and the market of Quebec, where it will be exchanged for British manufactures; and that the Canadians have learned to cut their lumber to great advantage, by floating mills of a new construction.

It was further stated, that Nova Scotia will soon be able to supply great quantities of lumber; and that if grants of lands are properly secured to the inhabitants, they will, in three years, be able to furnish, at moderate prices, most of the articles which the West India islands can want from North America.

It also appeared to the Committee, that there were 1,500,000 acres in the island of Cape Breton capable of producing any kind of European grain; that it abounds also with great quantities of lumber, pine of every dimension, oak of various kinds, ash and elm, beech, birch, and maple, which grow to great scantlings; that these woods lie contiguous to the coast, or on navigable rivers; and that there are a great number of streams fit to erect saw-mills

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1784 mills upon. It was likewise stated, that the disadvantage to which Canada is subject in point of navigation, is reversed with respect to Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, the navigation from those countries to the West India islands being performed in a less time than from the ports of the United States.

Besides these articles, there are others of which the West India islands stand in need; two of these are rice and Indian corn. The consumption of the first in the West India islands is very small, amounting, at an average of three years, to no more than 20,563 barrels annually. It is well known that rice cannot be produced either in Canada or Nova Scotia. Indian corn is a more necessary article; and the quantity imported into our West India islands, at an average of three years, is 401,464 bushels annually. It appeared, however, that a great deal of Indian corn was now grown in Nova Scotia, and that the cultivation of it was encreasing; and although the grain might not be so large and fine as that which is produced in the southern parts of America, it may answer the same purpose nearly as well: at all events, Canada and Nova Scotia produce all the substitutes for Indian corn, viz. peas, beans, barley, oats, and potatoes, at the most reasonable rates; with which, except potatoes, the planters, during the last war, fed their negroes. It was also expected, that, in a short time, great quantities of Indian corn, of the finest sort, would be produced in the Bahama islands, from whence the navigation is very easy and short to the West India colonies. These islands may likewise be supplied with live-stock from Nova Scotia, from whence the British army was plentifully furnished while it was at Boston. As for salted beef and pork, besides that of Canada and Nova Scotia, the West Indies may be supplied with those articles in plenty, and, all circumstances considered, at a cheaper rate, and of a superior quality, from Great Britain and Ireland, particularly from the latter; as the salted pork and beef from America is of an open texture, and more subject to decay in hot climates. Another very important article of provision, which the West Indies require, is dried and pickled fish; and very sufficient reasons were stated for believing that the whole supply can be furnished by one or other of the fisheries of Great Britain and Ireland, and those of Newfoundland, Canada, and Nova Scotia. The quantity imported into the British West India islands, is 159,669 quintals of dried fish annually.

In support of the third allegation, the planters and merchants urged, that before the last war, more than three parts in four of the ships employed in carrying on the commerce between the British West India islands and North America were American; and they produced two accounts, by which it appeared, that the number of ships so employed in the year 1772, amounted to 1,208, of which only 13 came from the colonies now under the dominion of his Majesty; that is, five from Canada, six from Newfoundland, and two from Nova Scotia.—They inferred also, from the number of vessels being so great, that their tonnage must have been small; and, consequently, they could not be British ships employed in the American trade, which are very seldom of less burthen than 250 or 300 tons. They produced also another paper, to shew, that of 561 sail, which entered at the port of Kingston, in Jamaica, in the year 1774, 131 were British-built, and 422 American-built. They also declared, that upon an experiment made for two or three successive years, of carrying on the trade by a circuitous voyage, that is, by sending ships from England to America to take in lumber, and carry the same from thence to the islands, it was found not to answer.

On the contrary, from the evidence of many eminent merchants trading to North America and the West Indies, as well as other persons who had been employed in his Majesty's service in America, it appeared, that there never was a period in which this country was better prepared than it is at present to enter into any new branch of the carrying trade.

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It was also stated, that the owners of British vessels concerned in the West India trade, have long laboured under great disadvantages, from the difficulty of procuring outward freights for their vessels; but that now, by going first to North America, and from thence to the West Indies, and so home, they will be sure of two freights, and perhaps three, instead of little more than one, and with very small additional charges in the payment of seamen's wages and port duties. That though the ships employed in the West India trade from the port of London, called established ships, have not hitherto engaged in this circuitous commerce, ships from the out-ports were frequently concerned in it. It was also observed, that the number of ships which seized the opportunity of going from North America to the West India islands with lumber and provisions, on the first notice of the order of council, is a clear proof that this branch of commerce is profitable. It was besides asserted, that, at this time, there were ten large ships from the port of London already destined for this circuitous trade; and that three others were preparing for the same purpose, whose chief object was to freight from America to Jamaica; and that these ships would go from hence even in ballast, if a freight outwards could not be obtained. It also appeared, that besides the ships above-mentioned, there were twelve sail of British ships established at Jamaica, for carrying on the trade between that island and the continent of America, with others intended to be fitted out; to which may be added the ships of Canada and Nova Scotia, which will be employed in this trade. It was at the same time proved, that many ship-carpenters had settled in Nova Scotia, for the purpose of ship-building; and if the trade to the West Indies should be confined to British shipping, there is no doubt but many more persons of the same description would be induced to settle in Nova Scotia, where they will find timber of every sort fit for ship-building; and as the tide in the bay of Fundy rises very high, the harbours of that country are better calculated for building ships than any of the continent of North America. It was also observed, that before the war, ships of between two and three hundred tons were built in Canada, for which purpose they have timber in plenty; and that the intercourse between the West Indies and America would be assisted by sloops belonging to the Bermuda and Bahama islands, which have always had a principal share in this trade.

In support of the fourth allegation, the planters and merchants produced accounts to shew, that, besides smaller articles, there was exported to North America, in the year 1773, 3,776 hogheads of sugar, and 32,265 puncheons of rum; and, in the succeeding year, 5,325 hogheads of sugar, and 43,488 puncheons of rum.—They alleged, that the Americans then took from the British West India islands their produce, in payment for nearly the amount of what they imported.

In opposition, however, to this, it was very strongly stated, that the confining the intercourse with our West India islands to British ships, will be a means of securing to the planters a greater export of their produce, than if the ships of the United States were allowed to come, as formerly, to the ports of our islands. It was also asserted, that though the West India merchants and planters seemed to imagine, that before the war, the Americans took from the British West India islands their produce, in payment for nearly the amount of what they imported, the balance was in favour of the Americans 300,000*l.*: for the annual average value of imports from North America into the islands, as estimated at the port of importation, freight included, amounted to 720,000*l.*; while their exportation to North America, freight included, was only 420,000*l.*

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It also appeared, from the most respectable testimonies, that the Americans never took, in payment of their cargoes, more than a small part of the produce of our islands; and that, in particular, the Americans trading to Jamaica, before the war, used to take produce of that island, in payment for provisions and lumber imported there, in nearly the following proportions:—

The southern provinces, about one-half, or rather more;—the balance in dollars.

The middle provinces, about one-fourth;—balance in dollars and sterling bills of exchange.

The northern, or New England government, not above one-tenth;—balance in dollars.

So unwilling were the Americans to take the produce of the British islands, that, when they sold their lumber and provisions in exchange for produce, and not for cash, they generally demanded an higher price: it may be, therefore, reasonably expected, that when the trade is confined to our own ships, there will be a greater exchange of produce for produce.

The result of this important enquiry is the satisfactory conviction, that by prohibiting or obstructing the intercourse between the continent of America and the West India islands, the people of the United States will suffer more than his Majesty's subjects; that their lumber and provisions must perish on their hands; and that the British islands may be furnished with those articles without their assistance.

It may also be proper to add, that by the clearances of the custom-house at Kingston, in Jamaica, it appears that 18 sail were cleared for different ports in America, in the space of one month, viz. from the 20th of February to the 20th of March, chiefly laden with the produce of the British West Indies; which is double the number of vessels that, in any former period, cleared out in that voyage in so short a time. Fifteen British-built vessels, navigated according to law, and chiefly from America, entered the port of Kingston, during the said period, laden with 1,433 barrels of flour; 1,729 boards and scantlings; 151,052 staves and headings; 264,600 shingles; and 72,300 feet of lumber:—Besides which, five vessels from the Musquito shore brought 492 planks, and 1,110,000 feet of mahogany; nor is the importation at the out ports of that island included in this account.

From hence a very promising conclusion may be drawn, that, instead of losing the American market, we shall sell to the United States a greater quantity than we did before the war; especially as the Americans, from the want of the specie or bills which they formerly took from our islands, and from other causes, will not be enabled to trade to the foreign islands as they used to do.

The order of council of the 26th of December, 1783, to continue the temporary act which passed the preceding session for regulating the commerce of Great Britain with the United States of America, (*vide* p. 516.) expiring the 20th of April, in this year, it was again continued to an unlimited period; as this act was found to answer every purpose intended by the framers of it.

The affairs of the East India Company were opened in the new Parliament by a petition from them, presented on the 26th of May, praying the House of Commons to grant them such relief as the situation of their affairs might appear to demand. On this occasion it was moved, that the directors lay before the House the information they might have received since their having made up their report of the 16th of February. In consequence of this motion, a second report was presented by them on the 1st of June, and, together with the preceding, immediately referred to the consideration of a select committee. This committee was constituted in the same manner as that of the last Parliament, with no other variation than such as

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1784 had been made necessary by the general election. The report of the committee was completed and presented to Parliament on the 22d instant, and taken into consideration by a committee of the whole House on the 2d of July.

In the mean time, a bill was introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to allow the Company to divide 4 per cent. for the half year concluding with Midsummer, 1784. After some opposition in both houses, as well as some alterations in its structure, it received the royal assent.

On the 2d of July, the day appointed for taking into consideration the report of the select committee, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved for leave to bring in a bill for the relief of the East India Company. This bill had for its object the respite of duties, the payment of bills, and the ascertainment of dividend. The duties were to be paid by instalments, at Midsummer and Christmas 1785. Provision was made for the bills already accepted or announced. The design of the bill, as it related to the dividend, was to enable the Company to act on a certain basis, without applying, from time to time, for any authority whatever. More than one question of considerable importance was involved in the debates that took place in the progress of this bill: it was examined how far the honour of Parliament was pledged by the measure before them; what was the true state of the finances of the Company; and what was the merit of the principle upon which the measure under discussion proceeded. These questions were seriously debated, and some amendments proposed, which being negatived, the bill proceeded in due course to the royal assent.

But all these measures were preparatory and subordinate to the bill of regulation that was moved for by Mr. Pitt on the 6th of July, and which, from the very great importance of its object, demanded the most serious attention of the nation. The designs which in the plan of the late Secretary of State were to be distributed into different bills, were, by Mr. Pitt, submitted at once to the uninterrupted attention of Parliament. This idea was professedly adopted by the minister, in order that the connection between the different parts of his system might be fully seen. This was at once to constitute a new form of government at home, and to regulate the different presidencies abroad,—to provide for the happiness of the natives,—to put an end to all misunderstandings and controversies,—and, lastly, by a more rigid mode of legislation, to exclude delinquency, and to institute a new judicature for the trial of offences committed in India.

Under the first head of the bill now introduced into Parliament, its provisions were nearly coincident with those of the bill originated by Mr. Pitt in the last session of the preceding Parliament: (*vide* p. 507.) the few alterations made, uniformly tended to enlarge the powers of the board of controul. It was permitted it, in urgent cases, to originate measures, as well as to revise, correct, and alter those of the directors. In matters relative to peace and war, where secrecy was a principal object, it was also allowed to send its orders directly to India, without communicating them to the court of directors; and to the commanders in chief, without the knowledge of the respective presidencies. It then proceeded, as had been done by the former bill, to regulate the number of persons constituting the different councils of Bengal, Fort St. George, and Bombay.

With respect to the government abroad, in the first place, it gave an absolute power to the governor-general and council of Bengal to originate orders to the inferior presidencies, in cases that did not interfere with the directions which had already been received from Great Britain; and added a power of suspension, in case of disobedience. The supreme council

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1784 were forbidden, unless any of the Princes of India should have first commenced or contemplated hostilities against our settlements, to enter upon war, or to form an offensive treaty, without orders from home. The inferior councils were prohibited, in all common cases, to form alliances; and, in urgent cases, they were commanded to insert a provisional clause, rendering the permanency of the alliance dependent upon the confirmation of the governor-general. Intelligence of every important transaction, in all cases, was commanded to be sent home immediately; and each servant of the Company, in any of its settlements, was required to transmit accounts of every considerable transaction to the council of Bengal.

Various regulations were added respecting the debts of the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore to private individuals and to the Company. Enquiry was ordered to be made by the different presidencies into the expulsions that might have been made of any of the hereditary farmers, and the oppressive rents and contributions that might have been extorted from them; and measures were directed to be taken for their relief and future tranquillity. A similar examination was required to be made, in order to retrenchment, into the different establishments of our settlements in India, a report of which was to be annually laid before Parliament. The Company were prohibited from sending out a greater number of cadets or writers than should be absolutely necessary; and it was ordered that the age of such as were sent out, should not be less than fifteen, nor more than twenty-two years. Promotions were commanded to be made in the order of seniority, unless in extraordinary cases, for which the presidencies should make themselves specifically responsible.

Crimes committed by English subjects in any part of India, were to be cognizable by every British court of justice, in the same manner as if they had been committed in our immediate dominions. Presents, except such as were merely ceremonial, were forbidden to be received, unless by a counsellor at law, a physician, a surgeon, or a chaplain, under the penalty of a confiscation of the present, and an additional fine, in the discretion of the court. Disobedience of orders, and pecuniary transactions contrary to the interests of the Company, were declared to be high crimes and misdemeanours. The Company were forbidden to interfere in favour of any person legally condemned of the above crimes, or to employ him in their service in future. The governors of the different presidencies were permitted to imprison any person suspected of illicit correspondence, and were ordered to send them to England with all convenient speed, if their health would permit.

Every person serving, or who should hereafter serve in India, and returning to England, was required to give in an estimate, upon oath, to the court of Exchequer, of his property, within two months after his arrival; one copy of which was to be kept in the court of Exchequer, and the other at the East India House. The board of controul, the court of directors, or any three of the proprietors whose stock should amount together to 1000l. were allowed to move the court of Exchequer to examine the validity of the account. The court of Exchequer was required, in case the accusation appeared to them to be well founded, to examine the accused, upon oath, and to imprison him until he shall have answered their interrogatories in a satisfactory manner. The whole property of every person who should neglect to give in such an account within the time limited, or who should have been guilty of a misrepresentation of that account, to the amount of 2000l. sterling, was ordered to be confiscated ten per cent. for the benefit of the informer or accuser, and the remainder to be equally divided between the public and the Company. Every person having been once employed in India,

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1784 and having afterwards resided in Europe for the space of five years, unless for the restoration of his health, was declared to be incapable to be sent out again to that country.

The attorney-general, or the court of directors, was authorised to file an information in the Court of King's Bench against any person for crimes committed in India. That court was empowered immediately to imprison or admit to bail the person accused: it was then ordered, that within thirty days a certain number of Peers should be chosen by the House of Lords, and of members of the House of Commons, by that House, to constitute a judicature for the trial of the accusation. The court was finally to consist of three judges, appointed by the crown, four Peers, and six members of the House of Commons; and the accused had a right to a peremptory challenge. The court was authorised to judge without appeal, and to declare the party convicted incapable of serving the East India Company: the punishments they were to award were fine and imprisonment; and in order to the proportioning the fine to the property of the convict, the court of Exchequer might, at the requisition of the attorney-general or the Company, examine him upon oath on that subject: if he refused to answer their interrogatories, his property was directed to be confiscated for the benefit of the King, and the court of Exchequer was further empowered to imprison him during pleasure. Records in the court of directors, and such other written testimony as should be approved by the court, were ordered to be considered as evidence, upon which they were authorised to form their sentence.

With respect to the last head of this bill, Mr. Pitt declared, that from his extreme partiality to the present system of distributive justice in this country, he could not bring himself to depart from it for a moment without the greatest reluctance. There was certainly something that looked like danger in the example of any deviation from the established form of trial; but it was evident that, at this time, there was no regular mode by which the delinquents in India could be brought to justice. There seemed to be no alternative between the institution of a new process, or the continuance of offences, equally shocking to humanity, and contrary to every principle of religion and justice. The necessity of the case outweighed the risque of the innovation: besides, it should be considered, that every man who went to India in future, would know the predicament in which he placed himself; and, in agreeing to give up some of the most essential privileges of his country, would do no more than a very numerous and honourable body of men, the military, did daily, without the smallest impeachment of their characters, or the purity of the motives that impelled their conduct.

On the 16th of July, a very long and violent debate took place upon this bill, when it was committed by a majority of 215,—276 being for going into the committee, and 61 against it. Though the House of Commons seemed determined to support the bill on general principles, the great variety of objects occasioned a great variety of opinion concerning the different parts of it. Some approved of the provisions for the suppression of future delinquency, who were not equally partial to the new board of controul, or to the regulations that related to the native Princes and Zemindars: while, on the contrary, many were desirous that an experiment should be made of the kind of controul recommended by the minister, who bestowed their severest reprobation upon the partial suspension that was introduced of the trial by jury. In short, the very rigid discussion which this important bill underwent in its progress, produced a very general alteration in the clauses of it.

The first amendment was intended to modify the clause that empowered the board of controul to originate orders, by limiting the proceeding to the case of the court of directors neglecting

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1784 neglecting to transmit dispatches to the board, after fourteen days notice, upon any subject the board might think it necessary to take up. To obviate the objections that had been made to the clause, empowering the board of controul to send orders directly to India, without communication with the court of directors, it was enacted, that that court appoint a committee of secrecy, not to exceed three persons, with whom the board of controul might communicate these orders. The clause, vesting the nomination of the several commanders in chief at Bengal, Bombay and Madras, in the King, was expunged, and those appointments left in the hands of the Company. The clause, reserving to the King a negative upon the appointments of the directors, was also withdrawn. The clause which obliged all persons returning from India to give an account of their fortunes upon oath, was greatly changed and modified.— That part of the bill which describes the constitution of the new tribunal, underwent considerable alteration. As the clauses stood at first, the bringing the accusation lay solely with the Attorney General or the Company. In the place of which regulation, it was proposed to authorise any other person or persons to move the Court of King's Bench for an information. It was also designed to give that court power to issue commissions to the courts in India, for the purpose of taking depositions; and these depositions, together with the records of the different presidencies, were the only species of written evidence to be allowed. Another material alteration regarded the formation of the tribunal. It was not to be chosen till the whole evidence was collected, that was capable of being procured, or thought necessary to support the information. To bring it nearer to the nature of a special jury, it was intended to be appointed partly by ballot and partly by selection; and the prosecutor was to have a right to challenge, but not peremptorily. The right of nominating the judges was to be taken away from the crown, and each court was to be left to appoint one of its own bench. The last amendment went to the exclusion of various persons, such as the directors of the Company, and persons returning from India, from the judicature that was to be erected. Such were the principal amendments which this important bill underwent in its progress through the lower House, where it was finally passed on the 28th of July, by a very great majority; and after being exposed to a vigorous opposition in the House of Lords, it was passed in that House on the 9th of August.

As the fisheries of Scotland promise at length to become an object of great commercial advantage to the nation, we cannot pass over the preliminary attention which was paid to them at the close of this session of Parliament.

There is no doubt but that the fisheries in Scotland might be made extremely beneficial to the revenue, if proper care was taken to give them suitable encouragement. In order to attain this important end, and to remove all obstacles to the immediate attainment of it, it was stated to the House of Commons by Mr. Dempster, that a custom prevailed in certain districts of Scotland bordering upon the sea, that was a part of the old feudal customs which formerly prevailed universally north of the Tweed, and which consisted of a certain suit and service, exclusive of the rent, which the tenant was obliged to perform to the landlord, when particularly called upon for that purpose. This custom was described as a great hardship, as well as a great inconvenience to the tenants, because they were generally called upon to perform suit and service in the harvest time and during the summer, which was the season when they were most busily employed in the fisheries. That gentleman, therefore, mentioned his design to move for leave to bring in a bill to allow the tenants to compound for this suit and service by a pecuniary commutation to the landlords, to be paid at the option of the tenant. By this means,

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1784 means, the tenant who would employ himself to greater advantage on the fisheries, would be enabled to pay a certain stated price in lieu of his suit and service to the landlord, and thus save the time he otherwise must lose. Mr. Dempster further said, that it was not his intention to attempt to carry the bill through Parliament this session, but merely, if leave were given to bring it in, to read it a first time, and then to print it, meaning to send it down to Scotland in that form, in order that the sense of the country might be taken upon it; and in case it met with the concurrence of the parties mutually concerned in that end of the kingdom, to resume it next year and complete it. He concluded with moving, “that leave be given to bring in a bill to allow tenants and sub-tenants employed in the fisheries of Great Britain, to commute for money all personal services, which they are bound to perform to their landlords. The motion was agreed to.

On the 20th of August, the King put an end to the session by a speech from the throne. He returned Parliament his warmest thanks for their zealous and diligent attention to the public services. He predicted the happiest effects from the bill for the better government of India:—he applauded the laws they had made for the preservation and improvement of the revenue:—he thanked the Commons for their provision for the arrear of the civil list:—he deplored the unavoidable burthens of the people:—he noticed the definitive treaty with Holland, and the peace concluded in India, and trusted that the present tranquillity would be of long continuance:—he adverted to the important objects with respect to trade and commerce, yet to be provided for; and he expressed his hopes that, on a full investigation of those important matters, such regulations would be framed, as might be calculated to promote the wealth and prosperity of every part of the British empire.

The following arret, which was published by the French court in this year, concerning the commercial intercourse allowed to foreigners with the French West Indies, appears to give the same advantages to the British European and American dominions, as it does to the American states. It seems to grant greater advantages, and to open the French islands more to strangers than any former arret; but it permits, in fact, little more than was allowed, though not always publicly, before the war, except that certain European articles may now go directly there, without passing through the medium of the ports of France. A considerable preference, however, is reserved to the French shipping and fisheries. This arret will serve also to explain in what manner the advantages given to the American States by France have been misrepresented and exaggerated.

ARRET du CONSEIL d'ETAT du ROI, concernant le Commerce étranger dans les isles Françaises de l'Amerique, du 30 Août, 1784.

“Article premier. L'Entrepot ci devant assigné au carénage de Sainte Lucie, sera maintenu pour ladite isle seulement, & il en sera établi trois nouveaux aux isles du vent; savoir un à Sainte Pierre pour la Martinique, un à la Pointe-à-Pitre pour la Gaudaloupe & dépendances, un à Scarborough pour Tobago. Il en sera pareillement ouvert trois pour Saint Domingue, savoir un au Cap François, un au Port-au-Prince, un aux Cayes Saint Louis: celui qui existe au Mole Saint Nicholas dans la même colonie, sera & demeurera supprimé.

“II. Permet sa Majesté, par provision & jusqu' à ce qu'il lui plaise d'en ordonner autrement, aux navires étrangers, du port de soixante tonneaux au moins, uniquement chargés de bois de toute espèce, même de bois de teinture, de charbon de terre, d'animaux bestiaux vivans de toute nature, de salaisons de boeufs & non de porcs, de morue & poisson salés, de

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1784 riz, mais, légumes, de cuirs verts en poil en tannés, de pelleteries, de résines & goudron, d'aller dans les seuls ports d'entrepôt désignés par l'article précédent, & d'y décharger & commercer les dites marchandises.

“ III. Il sera permis aux navires étrangers qui iront dans les ports d'entrepôt, soit pour y porter les marchandises permises par l'article II. soit à vuide d'y charger pour l'étranger, uniquement des sirops & taffias, & des marchandises venues de France.

“ IV. Toutes les marchandises dont l'importation & l'exportation sont permises à l'étranger dans les dits ports d'entrepôt, seront soumises aux droits locaux, établis ou à établir dans chaque colonie, & payeront en outre un pour cent de leur valeur.

“ V. Indépendamment du droit d'un pour cent, porté en l'article ci-dessus, les bœufs salés, la morue & le poisson salés, payeront trois livres par quintal; & fera le produit du dit droit de trois livres, converti en primes d'encouragement, pour l'introduction de la morue & du poisson salés provenans de la pêche Française.

“ VI. Les chairs salées étrangères qui seront introduites dans les colonies par des bâtimens François, expédiés directement des ports du royaume, ne seront point assujetties au paiement des droits mentionnés dans les deux articles précédens.

“ VII. Il sera établi dans chaque port d'entrepôt un nombre suffisant de commis, pour veiller à ce qu'il ne soit introduit ni exporté d'autres marchandises que celles qui sont spécifiées dans les articles II. & III. du présent arrêt; & afin qu'il ne reste aucun soupçon d'inexactitude dans cette surveillance, autorise sa Majesté les négocians François résidans dans chacun des dits ports d'entrepôt, ainsi que les capitaines de navires qui pourront s'y trouver, à nommer respectivement entr'e eux des commissaires, lesquels seront chargés de denoncer les négligences ou abus qu'ils pourroient reconnoître, & assisteront, lorsqu'ils l'estimeront convenable, à toutes les visites qui auront lieu, soit à l'arrivée, soit au départ des navires étrangers, &c.”

We cannot, however, but observe, that these articles do not seem calculated by any means to encourage foreign vessels to go to the French free ports in the West Indies; and the last of the above articles seems to put foreigners in the power of the French merchants, and French masters of ships. There are twelve other articles which regulate the entry of the foreign vessels, &c.

The number of ships which were employed from England in the whale fishery, to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, in the course of this year, to 89;—those of Scotland to 4; and those of Holland in the same trade, and the same period, to 59.

The Canada sales of this year in London, amounted to 201,000l.

The following gives the exact account of the revenue annually arising from the distillery in England, from the 5th of July, 1763, to the 5th of July, 1784.

Years.	Corn Distillery.			Melasses Distillery.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1764,	—	382,906	15 8	—	63,020	15 4
1765,	—	385,360	4 0	—	60,165	17 2
1766,	—	436,439	18 9	—	46,930	14 8
1767,	—	342,122	19 3	—	71,044	15 1
1768,	—	370,508	2 6	—	76,250	14 6
1769,	—	440,041	16 3	—	72,481	6 2
1770,	—	455,004	7 4	—	57,956	0 4
1771,	—	442,323	10 0	—	55,323	6 10
						1772,

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Years.	Corn Distillery.			Melasses Distillery.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1772,	459,559	1	11	54,346	14	1
1773,	387,632	4	0	57,053	17	11
1774,	345,864	15	1	54,661	5	10
1775,	437,063	1	8	61,348	0	8
1776,	428,108	10	4	80,016	5	9
1777,	452,426	17	0	45,316	19	5
1778,	543,130	16	0	41,112	0	6
1779,	513,253	4	9	8,583	9	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
1780,	540,881	8	6	18,112	13	0
1781,	548,641	1	1	8,392	10	3
1782,	509,544	10	3	3,584	13	0
1783,	335,713	14	5	2,588	9	4
1784,	371,921	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3,831	1	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

Of the 371,921l. and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. arising from the corn distillery in 1784, it appears that London and its neighbouring districts paid in the following proportions, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
London,	106,091	15	2
Surrey,	39,644	1	11 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hertford,	184,628	15	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total of the above-mentioned places,	330,364	12	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Paid by every other part of England,	41,556	8	2
Total,	371,921	0	3 $\frac{3}{4}$

By the following account is also seen the quantity of corn spirits made in Scotland as well as the disposal of it, from the 5th of July, 1778, to the 5th of July, 1784.

Years.	Made in Scotland.		Sent to England.		Left in Scotland.	
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
1778,	258		20		238	
1779,	350		24		326	
1780,	864		135		729	
1781,	872		388		484	
1782,	1,048		730		318	
1783,	773		697		76	
1784,	1,141		1,548			

By the above statement there appears to be no less than 407 tons sent to England, from the 5th of July, 1783, to the 5th of July, 1784, which paid no duty: and from the 5th of July to the 1st of November, 1784, there was 430 tons made in Scotland, and 669 tons sent to England, 239 tons of which paid no duty.

The quantity made in Scotland is found by the money paid, and is consequently presumptive;—the quantity sent to England is exactly ascertained by the equalizing duty paid of 11 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. per gallon; and as the real produce or make of corn spirit exceeds the presumptive charge 25 per

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1784 per cent. or as 15 is to 19 in quantity at Hydrometer proof; and the part sent from Scotland to England is well known to have been at 40 per cent. at least, over Hydrometer proof: in order to state the real quantity of corn spirit made in Scotland and sent to England, it will be right to add 25 per cent. to the presumptive quantity made in Scotland, and 40 per cent. to the quantity sent to England, and the difference between the amount of these two, will be the quantity that has been consumed in Scotland, on which duty has been paid. The following is a state of the account according to the foregoing calculation:

Years.	Made in Scotland at Hydrometer proof.	Sent to England at Hydrometer proof.	Left in Scotland at Hydrometer proof.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1778;	322	28	294
1779,	437	33	404
1780,	1,080	189	891
1781,	1,090	543	547
1782,	1,310	1,022	288
1783,	966	975	
1784,	1,426	2,167	

By this statement it appears, that 9 tons, in 1783, and 741 tons, in 1784, were sent to England more than any duty was paid for: and from the 5th of July to the 1st of November, 1784, there was 537 tons made in Scotland at Hydrometer proof, and 936 tons sent to England, of which 399 tons paid no duty.

The stock in hand on the 1st of November, 1784, was,

	Gallons.
Corn spirits,	114,234
Melasses ditto,	365
Total,	114,599

If the above statement of the distillery in Scotland be true, which, it is presumed, cannot be denied, it appears, that not only all the spirit consumed in Scotland in this year was made free of duty, but that there was sent into England 1,140 tons more than duty was paid for, exclusive of the quantity by which the stock on hand on the 5th of July, 1784, exceeded that of the 5th of July, 1783.

From the state of the Newfoundland fishery in this year, it is very evident how much its value is increased to this country, from the Americans being deprived of our market. This fishery is an object of great importance both to the commerce and to the marine of Great Britain. This subject comprehends three distinct objects. First, The people employed in taking and curing the fish, may, with great propriety, be considered as so many manufacturers who bring forward a certain commodity or manufacture, which, when perfected, becomes a valuable article of export. Secondly, This trade is certainly a great commercial object, as it gives freight to upwards of 200 sail of vessels directly to Europe,—chiefly to Spain, Portugal and Italy,—for neither England, France, nor the northern kingdoms of Europe, take any quantity of the American fish;—and thirdly, The Newfoundland fishery is, without doubt, the most extensive nursery for seamen, and those of the very best sort. Fisheries, coasting trade, and northern voyages produce hardy and intrepid seamen: African and Indian voyages destroy many and debilitate more. In all the fishing vessels from the west of England, Ireland, the

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1784 islands of Guernsey and Jersey, beside the ordinary complement of mariners, there are a number of apprentices and hired servants employed in taking and curing the fish: these servants and apprentices likewise take their turn of the ordinary duty of the ship, whereby they soon become tolerable seamen. Besides the large vessels, there are upwards of 2000 boats or shallops of from 10 to 20 tons employed in catching fish on the banks of Newfoundland, the Gulph of St. Lawrence, Nova Scotia, &c.: these small vessels seldom go any distance from the land; they chiefly fish along shore, and on the adjacent banks: in each of them is also a number of apprentices and hired servants, a part of whose time is employed on shore in erecting stages and in drying and curing the fish. In the year 1772, the number of persons employed in the fisheries of Newfoundland and our remaining colonies, amounted to about 25,000, including boys, which are more than double the number that were employed in the trade of the American States; and this is exclusive of the seamen employed in the other branches of trade in Canada and Nova Scotia. From this nursery, on the breaking out of a war, our navy has seldom failed of receiving a large and seasonable supply of men, who, by a little attention of the officers, have soon become acquainted with the duty of large ships.

From the accounts of the Irish fishery in this year, we find that the herrings came upon the north-west coast of Ireland about the last week in June, and continued until about the last week in September. At first they were of small size, but increased considerably; and latterly they were large, but by no means the size of the winter herrings. It is almost impossible to make any kind of satisfactory conjecture of the numbers that were taken. There was, for a considerable part of that time, no other demand than from the country about thirty miles round, while the take was so very great and the demand so small, that incredible numbers were thrown away; and, upon an average price for a month, they did not exceed 10d. per thousand; the number was at times so great, that 4d. 5d. or 6d. was the price of an horse load, and there was no restriction as to the load: they were boiled for oil, the price of which was 10d. per gallon, and was very good for lamps. This kind of oil was much used by curriers. The number of boats employed in the herring fishery was from 70 to 100; and during the height of the season, each boat could have taken, at least, as many more as they did, as it was seldom necessary to shoot their nets more than once for the boat load. As to the sum each boat made, it is said to be about 54l. and computing the price of herrings to be 20d. per thousand, each boat took 648,000, which, multiplied by 70, the lowest number of boats employed, makes the number amount to 45,360,000, exclusive of what were boiled for oil and thrown away. It may not, perhaps, be improper to observe in this place, that the supposition of herrings taken in July, August, and September being incapable of a proper state of curing, on account of their very extraordinary richness, is founded in error; as it appears, from experiment, that if a sufficient quantity of salt is used, they may be preserved as well as the winter herrings; but, by not taking proper care, and an injudicious saving of salt, the commodity has been brought into disrepute.

The quantity of linen imported from Ireland to England, from the 5th of January, 1783, to the same date in the present year, amounted to 20,687,528 yards.

The import of iron into Ireland from St. Petersburg alone, in the course of this year, was 2,514 tons, or 50,280 cwt.

The exportation of hats from Ireland to America alone increased this year to 11,867.—Neither the Americans nor the French can make good hats for want of rabbits wool in sufficient quantities.

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1784 As the political state of Ireland will claim our very particular attention in the succeeding year, we shall give the following abstract, as containing much useful preliminary information on that important subject.

An ABSTRACT of the hereditary Revenue and additional Duties, for one Year; with the Expence of Management, Drawbacks, Premiums, &c. from Lady-day, 1783, to Lady-day, 1784.

R E C E I P T.

BALANCES on the collector's accounts at Lady-day,	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1783, — — —	97,062	3	2			
Ditto in the hands of the collectors of excise, stamp officers, and the paymaster of corn premiums,	10,807	17	0½			
Arrears on the revenue standing out at said time,	145,251	18	10½			
				253,121	19	4

HEREDITARY REVENUE.

Customs inwards, — — —	228,952	3	0½			
Customs outwards, — — —	28,556	17	3			
Imported excise, — — —	146,331	11	5¾			
Prizage on wines, — — —	3,260	0	0			
Light-house duties, — — —	741	5	9½			
Fines and seizures, — — —	4,502	17	5¼			
Forfeitures, — — —	514	9	4			
Casualties, — — —	950	1	10			
Inland excise, — — —	76,527	2	9			
Ale licenses, — — —	8,567	9	9¾			
Wine and strong-water licenses, — — —	27,699	13	4¼			
Storeage, — — —	226	16	6			
Quit, &c. rents, — — —	64,386	2	2¾			
Hearth-money for the year, payable January 21, 1783,	61,309	13	11			
Proportion of the duties on teas, — — —	7,300	0	0			
				659,826	4	8½

ADDITIONAL DUTIES.

Tobacco, — — —	118,860	9	2½			
Wine, — — —	61,859	16	1			
Muslin, 1st — — —	509	18	11			
Muslin, 2d — — —	345	13	9			
Romals, foreign — — —	350	13	8			
Paper, foreign, — — —	427	0	1			
Foreign silk manufacture, — — —	151	3	2			
Vinegar, — — —	1,674	0	11			
Hops, — — —	7,669	11	1½			
Earthen, japanned, and lacquered wares, — — —	921	10	5			
Sugar, raw — — —	103,971	7	7½			
Sugar, refined, — — —	11,274	6	8			
				308,015	10	8½
Carried forward,				912,948	4	0½

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	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over,			—	912,948	4	0 $\frac{7}{8}$
Five per cent. on foreign dry goods,	—		3,998	12	10	
Coffee, 2d	—		311	17	10	
Linen rags exported,	—		1	11	6	
Six per cent. on retailers,	—		499	8	9	
Wheat, foreign, imported	—		490	1	3	
Residue of the duties on teas, after applying 7,300l. to the hereditary revenue,	—		29,279	0	8	
Cider licenses,	—		88	0	0	
Ale and beer,	—		33,057	8	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Beer, imported	—		1,132	10	1	
Sundry articles in the act for the advancement of trade,	—		560	19	2	
Duty on carriages for one year, ending Christmas, 1783,	—		4,917	10	0	
				382,352	11	11

STAMP DUTIES.

Stamped vellum, parchment and paper, and value of vellum, parchment and paper, and penalties,	—		34,580	1	2
Total revenue,	—		1,329,880	17	1 $\frac{7}{8}$

EXPENDITURE.

	£.	s.	d.
Salaries on the revenue establishments, incident charges, drawbacks, &c.	175,796	12	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Premiums and bounties,	72,424	7	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Miscellaneous expences,	13,691	16	7
Drawbacks on additional duties,	16,160	0	8
Salaries to stamp officers, incident charges, and discount,	8,263	10	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Payments to the vice-treasurers, in the year ending Lady-day, 1784,	772,313	17	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Balances and arrears at Lady-day, 1784,	271,230	11	9 $\frac{7}{8}$
Total expenditure,	1,329,880	17	1 $\frac{7}{8}$

The following account of the population of the American states has the authority of Congress. It seems, however to be only a general estimate, if we except Rhode Island and Connecticut, which appear to be more exactly enumerated; the rest, it is acknowledged, are set too high, and that the slaves are included. The best accounts state the number of whites in the American states as not exceeding 1,700,000.—The artifice of representing them as near 3,000,000, at the beginning of the war, is not now denied.

An Estimate of the Inhabitants of the United States of America, to be made the Basis of an Assessment in the respective States.

States.	Inhabitants.	Proportion of 1000.
New Hampshire,	82,200	34
Massachusetts Bay,	350,000	147
Rhode Island,	50,400	21

Connecticut,

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<i>States.</i>	<i>Inhabitants.</i>	<i>Proportion of 1000.</i>
Connecticut, —	206,000	— 86
New York, —	200,000	— 84
New Jersey, —	130,000	— 54
Pennsylvania, —	320,000	— 134
Delaware, —	35,0000	— 15
Maryland, —	220,700	— 92
Virginia, —	400,000	— 167
North Carolina, —	200,000	— 84
South Carolina, —	170,000	— 71
Georgia, —	25,000	— 11
Total,	2,389,300	1000

An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1784.	<i>British</i>	<i>Foreign</i>
ENGLAND.	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
Wheat, —	35,446	6,955
Wheat Flour, —	38,867	2,139
Rye, —	5,821	800
Barley, —	18,676	2,747
Malt, —	45,415	—
Oats, —	8,527	1,087
Oat-meal, —	2,752	—
Beans, —	7,309	613
Peas, —	2,747	118

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	3,003	—
Wheat Flour, —	2,877	—
Bear, —	2,740	—
Rye, —	110	—
Barley, —	50	—
Oats, —	1,073	—
Oatmeal, —	71	—
Peas and Beans, —	189	—

IMPORTED.

1784.	<i>Quarters.</i>
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	169,810
Wheat Flour, —	4,783
Rye, —	23,722
Barley, —	43,729
Oats, —	175,765
Oat-meal, —	648
Beans, —	28,047
Peas, —	2,915
Indian corn, —	46

SCOTLAND.

Wheat, —	42,109
Wheat Flour, —	245
Rye, —	1,057
Barley, —	33,453
Oats, —	78,962
Oatmeal, —	11,623
Peas, —	14,854

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the course of this year, amounted to 22,669l. 18s. 3½d.

The drawbacks, during the same period, were 255l. 3s. 5d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same time, was 950l. 6s. 3d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 7,406l. 15s. 5d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 2,522l. 15s. 3d.

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1784. The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 6s. 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. ; rye, 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. ; barley, 3s. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. ; oats, 2s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; beans, 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	Long Ann.	Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Bonds.	S Sea Old Ann.	S Sea New Ann.	Nav Bills	3 per cent. Scrip	4 per cent. Scrip	Exchequer Bills.
January,	{ 111	55 $\frac{1}{8}$	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 s.	—	—	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	57 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	—
	{ 113 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	53 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	—	—	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	—
February,	{ 113	57	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	16 $\frac{7}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{8}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	20	58 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	4 s.
	{ 116	58 $\frac{7}{8}$	55 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	57	58	18 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	—	10
March,	{ 116	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	30	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	58	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	6
	{ 118	59 $\frac{3}{8}$	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{5}{8}$	18 $\frac{3}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	16	—	—	2
April,	{ 116 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{5}{8}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{7}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{7}{8}$	129	22	—	56 $\frac{7}{8}$	19	—	—	1
	{ 116 $\frac{3}{8}$	58	58	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{8}$	127	9	—	58 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	2
May,	{ 116 $\frac{1}{8}$	58	58 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 $\frac{7}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	122 $\frac{3}{4}$	7	58	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	14	—	—	—
	{ 115	57 $\frac{3}{8}$	57 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{7}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	124	13	56 $\frac{5}{8}$	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	17	—	—	—
June,	{ 115	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	9	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	58	18	—	—	1
	{ 116	58 $\frac{3}{4}$	59 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	19	57 $\frac{3}{8}$	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	14 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	—	3
July,	{ 113 $\frac{3}{4}$	56 $\frac{7}{8}$	59	74 $\frac{7}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{8}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	—	—	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	74	—
	{ 116	58 $\frac{7}{8}$	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	73	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	119	3	—	—	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{3}{8}$	—
August,	{ 116	58 $\frac{5}{8}$	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{3}{8}$	12	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	56 $\frac{7}{8}$	56 $\frac{5}{8}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{5}{8}$	75	2
	{ 116 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	4	—	—	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	56 $\frac{3}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
Septemb.	{ 117 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	56 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	55 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	2
	{ 117 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{7}{8}$	74	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{3}{4}$	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	55 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	—
October,	{ 110	54	54 $\frac{1}{8}$	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	16 $\frac{3}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{8}$	128	4	—	—	—	55 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	2
	{ 111 $\frac{3}{4}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{7}{8}$	12	126 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	—	53 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	1
Novemb.	{ 112	53 $\frac{3}{8}$	54 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	16 $\frac{5}{8}$	12	—	1	54 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	—	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	3
	{ 110 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{7}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	3	54	—	—	56 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—
Decemb.	{ 113 $\frac{3}{4}$	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	54 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1	54 $\frac{7}{8}$	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	3
	{ 112 $\frac{1}{8}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	17 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	7	54 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	—	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—

The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal assent in the fourth session of the fifteenth Parliament of Great Britain:—

A bill to continue, for a limited time, an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled “An act for preventing certain instruments from being required from ships belonging to the United States of America; and to give to his Majesty, for a limited time, certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the subjects of his Majesty’s dominions and the inhabitants of the said United States.”

To continue so much of an act made in the last session of Parliament, as allows further time for the payment of certain sums due, and to become due to the public from the East India Company.

To explain and amend an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled, “An act for repealing an act made in the 22d of his present Majesty, entitled, An act for charging a stamp duty upon inland bills of exchange, promissory notes, or other notes, payable otherwise than upon demand; and for granting new stamp duties on bills of exchange, promissory, and other notes, and also stamp duties on receipts:” and for indemnifying all persons who have written or signed any bill of exchange, promissory or other note, or any receipt not stamped according to law.

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To establish certain regulations concerning the postage and conveyance of letters and packets between Great Britain and Ireland.

To continue the provisions of an act of the 23d of his present Majesty, for granting a bounty upon the exportation of British and Irish buckrams, &c. British and Irish linens, British calicoes and cottons, or cotton mixed with linen, printed, painted, stained, or dyed in Great Britain, for a limited time.

The following bills, among others, received the royal assent in the first session of the sixteenth Parliament of Great Britain :—

A bill for further continuing, for a limited time, an act of the 23d of his present Majesty, entitled, “ An act for preventing certain instruments from being required from ships belonging to the United States of America,” &c. &c.

To empower the East India Company to make a dividend to the proprietors of East India stock at Midsummer, 1784.

To enable the governor and company of the bank of Scotland further to increase the capital stock of the said company.

To appoint and enable commissioners further to examine, take, and state the public accounts of the kingdom.

To revive and continue an act of the 12th of his present Majesty, for encouraging the manufacture of leather, by lowering the duty payable upon oak bark, when the price of such bark shall exceed a certain rate, for a limited time ; and for extending several acts of Parliament relative to the manufacture of leather to Scotland.

For the preservation and encouragement of the hat manufactory in this kingdom, by preventing the exportation of British hare-skins, British hare-wool, and British coney-wool, and all undressed or untawed British coney-skins ; and for preventing any of the said skins from being stained or dyed ; and for the importation of goats-hair into this kingdom, duty free.

For discontinuing the petty custom on aliens goods imported into Great Britain, and the duty of one per cent. on goods exported to, or imported from the Mediterranean seas, in unqualified ships ; and for repealing so much of an act passed in the 4th of his present Majesty, as enacts that no part of the old subsidy shall be drawn back upon goods exported to the British colonies or plantations in America.

To postpone the payment of the sum of two millions advanced by the governor and company of the bank of England, towards the supply for the service of the year 1781.

For the better regulation and management of the affairs of the East India Company, and of the British possessions in India ; and for establishing a court of judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies.

For granting to his Majesty additional duties on linens printed, painted, stained, or dyed in Great Britain ; and for granting certain duties on cotton stuffs, bleached or dyed in Great Britain, and on licences for bleaching or dyeing the same ; and upon the importation of stuffs made of, or mixed with cotton, not painted, printed, stained or dyed in foreign parts.

For granting to his Majesty certain duties on licences to be taken out by persons vending hats by retail, and also certain duties on hats sold under such licences ; and for laying additional duties on all hats and caps imported into this kingdom.

For granting to his Majesty certain duties on all gold and silver plate imported ; and also certain duties on all gold and silver wrought plate made in Great Britain.

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For repealing the present duties upon wax-candles made in Great Britain, and for granting other duties in lieu thereof, and upon wax imported, as also upon licences to make or sell wax-candles in Great Britain.

To discontinue, for a limited time, the payment of the duties upon low wines and spirits for home consumption, and for granting and securing the due payment thereof; and for the better regulation of the making and vending British spirits, as well for home consumption as for exportation; and for destroying all home-made and foreign spirits after the condemnation thereof; and for vesting in his Majesty the duties of excise within the lands of Farintosh, in Rofs-shire; and for discontinuing, for a limited time, certain imposts and duties upon rum and spirits imported from the West Indies.

For the relief of the East India Company with respect to certain sums due to the public, and to the acceptance of certain bills drawn upon the said Company, and for regulating the dividends to be made by the said Company.

For the more effectual prevention of smuggling in this kingdom.

To extend the powers of an act of the 23d of his present Majesty, for giving his Majesty certain powers for the better carrying on trade and commerce between the subjects of his Majesty and the inhabitants of the United States of America, &c.

To revive and continue several laws relating to the allowing the exportation of certain quantities of wheat, and other articles, to his Majesty's sugar colonies in America, and to the allowing a drawback of the duties on rum shipped as stores to be consumed on board merchant ships on their voyages; and to extend the provisions of an act of the 23d of his present Majesty, relative to the removal of wine in casks, to wine removed in bottles, and other packages.

For granting certain additional rates of postage for conveyance of letters and packets by the post, within the kingdom of Great Britain; for preventing frauds in the revenue, carried on by the conveyance of certain goods in letters and packets, and for further preventing frauds and abuses in relation to the sending and receiving of letters and packets free from postage.

For granting additional duties upon raw and thrown silk imported into Great Britain; and upon lead exported from Great Britain; and for allowing a drawback upon the exportation of silks, and stuffs mixed with silk.

For repealing the several duties on tea, and for granting to his Majesty other duties in lieu thereof; and also several duties on inhabited houses; and upon the importation of cocoa nuts and coffee, and for repealing the inland duties of excise thereon.

To explain, amend, and render more effectual, an act of the 30th of George II. entitled, "An act for the more effectual punishment of persons who shall attain, or attempt to attain possession of goods or money by false or untrue pretences; for preventing the unlawful pawning of goods; for the easy redemption of goods pawned; and for preventing gaming in public-houses by journeymen, labourers, servants, and apprentices,"—so far as the same relates to the preventing of the unlawful pawning of goods, and for the easy redemption of goods pawned.

During the war, we thought it necessary to give all the articles of the annual account of supplies in detail, in order more fully to shew the immensity and variety of the national resources, and their mode of application; but peace being now established, and the items of public expenditure being subject to little variation, we shall curtail that part of our information, and confine it, in a great measure, to the general articles and aggregate sums which compose the current supplies of the year.

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	3,153,869	0	6
For the army,	4,080,220	13	9½
For the ordnance,	610,149	8	11
Miscellaneous services,	2,467,226	11	2½
Deficiencies,	1,676,708	15	0
Total Supplies,	11,988,174	9	4½

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	2,750,000	0	0
Annuities and a lottery,	6,360,000	0	0
Savings in the several army services,	441,702	13	9½
Loans and Exchequer bills,	2,500,000	0	0
The sinking fund,	800,000	0	0
Remaining in the Exchequer,	105,818	5	11½
Total of Ways and Means,	12,957,520	19	8½
Total amount of Supplies granted,	11,988,174	9	4½
Excess of Ways and Means,	969,346	10	3½

The following additional duties and new taxes were imposed this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
Candles, one halfpenny per pound,	100,000	0	0
Bricks, 2s. 6d. per 1000; and tiles, from 3s. to 30s. per 1000,	50,000	0	0
Hats, from 3d. to 2s. and licences for vending the same,	150,000	0	0
Pleasure horses, 10s. per head; running ditto, 2l. 2s.	100,000	0	0
British linens and cottons, from ¾d. to 1s. per yard, and licences for bleaching and dying the same,	120,000	0	0
Ribbands, from 1d. for every 12 yards, to 1d. per yard; and gauzes, from 2d. to 4d. per yard,	120,000	0	0
Licences for retailing beer, ale, and other exciseable liquors; and to the makers and dealers in certain exciseable commodities, from 10s. to 50l.	110,000	0	0
Qualifications of shooters, 2l. 2s. per head; and deputations from lords of manors, 10s. per head,	10,000	0	0
Paper, from 1d. to 10s. per ream, and pasteboards, millboards, &c.	18,000	0	0
Hackney-coaches, 5s. per week,	12,000	0	0
Silver plate, 6d. per ounce; and gold plate, 8s. per ounce,	25,000	0	0
Lead exported, 1l. 1s. per ton,	15,000	0	0
Postage of letters, 1d. and 2d.; and regulations of franking,	120,000	0	0
Raw and thrown filk imported, 2s. and 3s. per pound.			
Total of additional and new taxes,	950,000	0	0
Interest of the loan of 6,000,000l.	280,000	0	0
Excess of taxes,	670,000	0	0

IMPORTS

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1783, to CHRISTMAS 1784.

C O U N T R I E S.

I M P O R T S.

E X P O R T S.

C O U N T R I E S.	I M P O R T S.	E X P O R T S.
Africa,	£. 119,152 — 1	£. 523,985 16 2
Canaries,	4,840 — 11	5,150 6 11
Denmark and Norway,	117,477 11 11	261,998 11 8
East Country,	657,337 2 3	68,612 12 9
East Indies,	2,996,652 2 11	730,858 3 7
Flanders,	279,839 17 8	849,893 13 1
France,	70,807 8 —	152,539 12 6
Germany,	504,179 19 11	1,245,438 6 3
Holland,	522,177 10 9	1,277,480 6 3
Ireland,	1,777,984 15 5	1,634,568 11 7
Isle of Man,	13,246 6 10	54,174 12 3
Italy,	663,124 16 6	474,743 — 2
Madeira,	2,445 2 4	19,321 1 9
Portugal,	370,535 2 10	495,572 6 5
Russia,	1,529,036 6 1	226,461 — 10
Spain,	646,526 — 11	808,689 16 7
Gibraltar,	1,421 12 6	52,840 8 6
Streights,	— — —	207,015 6 4
Sweden,	214,002 4 8	57,590 9 1
Turkey,	75,167 17 1	43,052 13 8
Venice,	57,878 14 2	19,103 15 10
Greenland,	62,288 3 —	— — —
Island of Alderney,	123 5 10	2,541 13 7
Island of Guernsey,	23,804 13 8	51,546 6 4
Island of Jersey,	13,362 5 10	30,156 1 4
Island of Sark,	— — —	199 — —
Canada,	78,754 10 4	238,582 10 10
Cape Breton,	— — —	1,331 10 6
Carolina,	167,545 4 2	492,833 14 4
Florida,	18,108 4 —	— — —
Georgia,	22,888 14 —	47,230 15 3
Hudson's Bay,	7,683 9 5	8,937 8 1
New England,	51,078 13 3	526,560 15 11
Newfoundland,	52,719 9 2	177,233 9 5
New York,	47,302 18 9	709,547 11 6
Nova Scotia,	13,200 11 8	297,411 4 1
Pennsylvania,	70,263 10 9	689,491 9 9
Island of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	— — —	808 14 7
Virginia & Maryland,	390,250 6 1	1,182,346 13 1
Anguilla,	3,632 15 1	82,586 18 8
Antigua,	253,235 2 3	— — —
Bahamas,	8,383 3 6	54,045 10 2
Barbadoes,	127,215 18 1	121,168 18 2
Bermuda,	1,111 3 10	13,386 15 7
Dominica,	150,992 16 5	55,510 12 8
Grenada,	530,363 16 10	99,969 18 5
Honduras Bay,	12,493 2 9	2,173 19 2
Jamaica,	1,690,674 8 8	682,318 12 7
Montserrat,	62,705 4 2	13,423 18 2
Musquito Shore,	1,692 — —	2,520 14 4
Nevis,	76,913 1 2	11,068 14 7
St. Croix,	— — —	— — —
St. Eustatius,	— — —	9,618 14 —
St. Kitt's,	254,203 12 8	73,356 3 3
St. Lucia,	75,255 10 6	2,491 12 —
St. Thomas's,	— — —	815 16 9
St. Vincent's,	107,902 19 2	33,174 9 12
Tobago,	57,412 2 7	13,496 7 3
Tortola,	123,580 19 1	24,002 9 2
Demerara,	656 16 10	— — —
St. Domingo,	2,755 10 —	— — —
Surinam,	— — —	— — —
St. Martin's,	— — —	— — —
Cape Francois,	— — —	— — —
Havannah,	— — —	— — —
New Orleans,	— — —	— — —
Buenos Ayres,	— — —	— — —
Northern Fishery,	10 11 5	— — —
Southern Fishery,	4,736 — —	179 17 7
Foreign coin and bullion,	— — —	632,571 7 6
Prize goods,	83,643 11 7	140,110 8 —

Total, 15,272,776 19 5

15,733,847 7 11

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1784 An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	8,778	Buried, males	9,229
———— females	8,401	———— females	8,599
	17,179		17,828

1785 A subject of the very first magnitude, under the title of the Irish Propositions, claimed the particular attention of the public, and occupied the diligence of Parliament in the early part of this year.

A very unjust and oppressive species of policy had long been exercised by the British government in regard to Ireland, by which she had been debarred from the enjoyment and the use of her own resources, and to make her entirely subservient to the interests and opulence of this country. She had not been suffered to share in the bounties of nature, or the industry of her citizens: she was shut out from every species of commerce, and restrained from sending the produce of her own soil to foreign markets. Some small relaxation of this system had, indeed, taken place at an early period of the present century, and something more had been done in the reign of George II.; but it was not till a time nearer to our own days, and, indeed, within the last seven years, that the system had been completely reversed. Still, however, notwithstanding all that had been done respecting the foreign commerce of Ireland, the intercourse between the two countries remained without alteration: Ireland was, therefore, still dissatisfied; so that in the metropolis of that kingdom, and elsewhere, ideas had been started of imposing duties on the produce of British manufactures, under the name of protecting duties; and as such a measure, which had been suggested by the situation and emergencies of the country, was considered as inconsistent with the general welfare, it was absolutely necessary that judicious and effectual substitution should be made in its place.

In consequence of this situation of affairs, previous to the meeting of the Irish Parliament, in January 1785, the British cabinet, in concert with the commissioners appointed on the part of Ireland, had formed a plan for regulating and finally adjusting the commercial intercourse between the two kingdoms.

This new system of commerce between Great Britain and Ireland, was accordingly first introduced into the Parliament of the latter kingdom, on the 7th of February, by Mr. Orde, Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, in the form of the following ten propositions; which, by a small alteration and distribution of the subject of one of them into two heads, were increased to eleven. These propositions passed the committee of the whole House on the 11th of February, and on the 12th, they were reported, and followed up by an address to the Sovereign, expressive of their fervent gratitude, and the sanguine hope with which they looked forward to the complete execution of so wise and liberal an arrangement. The concurrence of the House of Peers being also obtained, these regulations were transmitted immediately to England, as the proposed basis of an equitable and final adjustment between the two countries.

The Resolutions passed by the Irish House of Commons.

“ I. Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is highly important to the general interest of the British empire, that the trade between Great Britain and Ireland be encouraged and extended as much as possible;—and, for that purpose, that the intercourse and commerce

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1785 commerce be finally settled and regulated on permanent and equitable principles, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

“ II. That, towards carrying into full effect so desirable a settlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, should be imported into each kingdom from the other reciprocally, under the same regulations, and at the same duties, if subject to duties, to which they are liable when imported directly from the place of their growth, product, or manufacture; and that all duties originally paid on the importation, into either country respectively, shall be fully drawn back on exportation to the other.

“ III. That for the same purpose, it is proper that no prohibition should exist, in either country, against the importation, use, or sale of any article, the growth, product, or manufacture of the other; and that the duty on the importation of every such article, if subject to duty in either country, should be precisely the same in one country as in the other, except where an addition may be necessary in either country, in consequence of an internal duty on any such article of its own consumption.

“ IV. That in all cases where the duties on articles of the growth, product, or manufacture of either country are different on the importation into the other, it would be expedient that they should be reduced in the kingdom where they are the highest, to the amount payable in the other; and that all such articles should be exportable from the kingdom into which they shall be imported, as free from such duty as the similar commodities or home manufacture of the same kingdom.

“ V. That for the same purpose it is also proper, that in all cases where either kingdom shall charge articles of its own consumption with an internal duty on the manufacture, or a duty on the material, the same manufacture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a further duty on importation to the same amount as the internal duty on the manufacture, or to an amount adequate to countervail the duty on the material; and shall be entitled to such drawbacks or bounties on exportation, as may leave the same subject to no heavier burthens than the home-made manufacture: such further duty to continue so long as the internal consumption shall be charged with the duty or duties to balance which it shall be imposed, or until the manufacture coming from the other kingdom, shall be subjected there to an equal burthen, not drawn back or compensated on exportation.

“ VI. That, in order to give permanency to the settlement now intended to be established, it is necessary that no prohibition, or new additional duties, should be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, product, or manufacture of the other, except such additional duties as may be requisite to balance duties on internal consumption, pursuant to the foregoing resolution.

“ VII. That, for the same purpose, it is further necessary, that no prohibitions, or new and additional duties, should be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, product, or manufacture from thence to the other, except such as either kingdom may deem expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuit; and also except where there now exists any prohibition which is not reciprocal, or any duty which is not equal in both kingdoms: in every such case, the prohibition may be reciprocal, or the duties raised, so as to make them equal.

“ VIII. That, for the same purpose, it is necessary that no bounties whatever should be paid or payable in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except such as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour, and biscuits; and such as are in the nature of drawbacks,

or

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or compensation for duties paid; and that no bounty should be granted in this kingdom on the exportation of any article imported from the British plantations, or any manufacture made of such article, unless in cases where a similar bounty is payable in Britain on exportation from thence, or where such bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback, or compensation of or for duties paid, over and above any duties paid thereon in Britain.

“ IX. That it is expedient, for the general benefit of the British empire, that the importation of articles from foreign states should be regulated, from time to time, in each kingdom, on such terms as may afford an effectual preference to the importation of similar articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other.

“ X. That it is essential to the commercial interests of this country to prevent, as much as possible, an accumulation of national debt; that, therefore, it is highly expedient that the annual revenue of this kingdom, should be made equal to its annual expence.

“ XI. That, for the better protection of trade, whatever sum the gross hereditary revenue of this kingdom, (after deducting all drawbacks, re-payments, or bounties granted in the nature of drawbacks) shall produce over and above the sum of 656,000*l.* in each year of peace, wherein the annual revenue shall equal the annual expence, and in each year of war, without regard to such equality, should be appropriated towards the support of the naval force of the empire, in such manner as the Parliament of the kingdom shall direct.”

Very shortly after the arrival of these resolutions in England, they were regularly opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Parliament of Great Britain.

There was but one opinion in the nation as to the necessity of some kind of commercial settlement between Great Britain and the sister kingdom: and that the fixing this trading intercourse between the two countries on a firm, liberal and permanent basis, by which an end might for ever be put to jealousies and clamour, by which all future pretexts to discontent might be removed, and by which the surest foundations of future strength and opulence might be laid, was one of the most important topics which could be agitated in Parliament, and one of the most desirable objects that the deliberative wisdom of Parliament could obtain.

On these principles Mr. Pitt supported the commercial arrangements suggested in the propositions, in a speech of considerable length, which he concluded with moving the following general resolution. “ That it was highly important to the general interests of the empire, that the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland should be finally adjusted, and that Ireland should be admitted to a permanent and irrevocable participation of the commercial advantages of this country, when the Parliament of Ireland shall permanently and irrevocably secure an aid out of the hereditary revenue of that kingdom, towards defraying the expence of protecting the general commerce of the empire in time of peace.”

After taking a review of what had already been granted to Ireland by the British legislature, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proceeded to examine the subject then in agitation, under the two following heads:

First, As to the effects of the commercial arrangements, contained in the propositions, on our particular commerce and manufactures,—as they regarded our navigation laws and the monopoly of our trade with our colonies, and as they related to the intercourse between the two countries by the equalising of duties.

Secondly, As to the effects of an extension of the trade of Britain, in the return which Ireland would make towards the common expence.

With

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With regard to the first, he was aware that it possessed the appearance of militating against the navigation laws, the source of our maritime strength and commercial opulence: but that it did not oppose the spirit of those laws is evident from a short statement of the fact. Goods, the produce of Europe, might now be imported through Ireland into Britain by the express authority of the navigation act. The new proposition applied only to Africa and America, for Asia was excluded, as the East India Company had the monopoly of the trade of that part of the world. We had already given to Ireland the direct intercourse to our colonies; and the liberty now to be added, was nothing more than that of bringing to Britain circuitously, what she had herself the privilege of bringing directly. The enquiry, therefore, to be made was, whether there was any thing in the local situation of the ports of Ireland, which could enable her to make this circuitous voyage cheaper than we could make the direct one. There was still another circumstance of consideration:—Ireland could now send a cargo to the West Indies, and bring a cargo directly from thence to Britain; or she could invoice a part of her cargo to Britain and a part to Ireland. In short, what was there in the trifling addition to these immunities made by the propositions, that could awaken the apprehensions of a sober merchant or a sound politician.

The other leading measure, at this time, before Parliament, was the equalising the duties in the produce and manufactures of both countries. The result of this Mr. Pitt undertook to explain. Prohibitory duties were, at present, imposed in Britain on the majority of the manufactures of Ireland; linen, however, was a liberal exception: on the contrary, our manufactures had been imported into Ireland at low duties: a question might therefore be put, whether, under the accumulation of our heavy taxes, it would be wise to equalize the duties, and thus to enable a country free from those taxes to meet and overthrow us in their own markets and in ours? To this it might be answered, that it was not to be expected that Ireland, with an independent legislature, would submit to be treated with subjection and inferiority; a generous effort was to be made by this country, and we were to chuse between inevitable alternatives. But in reality was it, in a great degree, to be apprehended, that a country incapable of supplying herself, should prove formidable to us in a foreign market? Our manufactures were so decidedly superior to theirs both in workmanship and skill, that the immunity proposed to be granted would be productive of little alteration. The low price of labour in Ireland might, it is true, be urged with some degree of probability: but it would require time for the acquisition of both capital and skill; and the capital could not increase without the demand: but, in an established manufacture, improvement was so rapid as to bid defiance to rivalry. Besides, as the manufactures and commerce of Ireland increased, the difference between the price of labour would be incessantly diminishing. After all, there might be some branches of manufacture in which Ireland might rival, and perhaps excel England: but, in a matter of general benefit, we should calculate from general and not from partial views; and above all, we should learn not to regard Ireland with an eye of jealousy. It required little philosophy to reconcile us to a competition, which would give us a rich customer instead of a poor one. Besides, the prosperity of the sister kingdom would be a fresh spring for our own trade.

Such was the general outline of the proposed system on its first appearance, and the magnitude of it was, probably, the reason why it was received at first in this country with so much tranquillity and acquiescence. The extensive views of the object it embraced, occasioned a diffident and becoming pause in the minds of the people. Three weeks elapsed, without al-

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1785 most a single petition being presented to the House of Commons, against the system which had been opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the interim, a report prepared by a committee of council appointed for the consideration of all matters relative to trade and foreign plantations, was laid by the minister on the table of the House of Commons to assist its deliberations. This committee had been originally appointed on the 5th day of March, 1784, and consisted of Lord Sydney, who presided, the first Lord of the Admiralty, the Paymasters of the Army, the Treasurer of the Navy, and fourteen other members of the Privy Council: Mr. Charles Jenkinson, (since created Lord Hawkesbury) was considered as the most active member and real director of this board. The questions referred to their consideration, related entirely to the latter of the two heads, into which Mr. Pitt has distributed the benefits conceded to Ireland, and principally concerned the propriety of reducing the duties payable in this country, upon the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland.

This report, after a variety of statements which are of too great a length to insert in this place, concludes with answering the two questions referred to the committees by his Majesty, and with the proposition of a plan for regulating the future commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, as follows:

“ The committee having thus laid before your Majesty the information they have received; and having stated such observations as appeared to them to be necessary, for the purpose of explaining the accounts and pointing out any mistakes in the evidence given, it is their duty now to offer their opinion on the first question referred to them; that is, on the propriety of reducing the duties payable in Great Britain on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, at the same rate as the duties payable in Ireland on the importation of the like goods the growth and manufacture of Great Britain.

“ The committee think it right to begin by observing, that since the constitution of Ireland has been put on its present footing, it is not probable that the people of that kingdom will rest satisfied with the same system of commerce that subsisted before that alteration was made; for though the Parliament of Ireland, in their last session, rejected the duties that were proposed for the protection of their woollen manufactures, they imposed a duty on four other articles of British commerce, viz. on refined sugar, on beer, wine, and printed calicoes, for the express purpose of encouraging their trade in these several articles.

“ And it appears, that the two Houses of Parliament of Great Britain were of opinion, that, in consequence of the change made in the Irish constitution, some new arrangement would be necessary; for, on the 17th of May, 1782, after having resolved, that an act made in the sixth year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the First, entitled, ‘ An Act for the better securing the dependency of the Kingdom of Ireland upon the Crown of Great Britain,’ ought to be repealed, they came immediately to the following resolution:—‘ That it is indispensable to the interest and happiness of both kingdoms, that the connection between them should be established on a solid and permanent basis.’

“ The present question, therefore, is not whether the system of commerce, on which your Majesty has required the opinion of the committee, is better or worse than that which existed before the change made in the Irish constitution, but whether it is better than that which, if some agreement is not made, is likely now to take place.

“ It appears to the committee, that in arranging the commercial intercourse in future between the two kingdoms, there are but three plans that can possibly be adopted.

“ First, That the ports of each kingdom should be open to goods the growth and manufacture of the other, free from all duties, except those of excise and other internal duties.

“ As

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1785 “As there are certain articles of commerce in which each country has a decided advantage, it is probable that such a plan would occasion the ruin of many of your Majesty’s subjects in Great Britain and Ireland, and introduce an immediate convulsion in the commerce of the two kingdoms.

“The second plan is, That each kingdom should, for the future, proceed in making such regulations, and imposing such duties on the importation of goods, the growth or manufacture of the other, as their respective legislatures shall, in their wisdom, think necessary for the protection and improvement of their own commerce.

“This plan, which will probably be followed if some agreement is not made, will be the source of perpetual dissensions; will necessarily tend to separate each country further from the other; and, in a course of years, will place them in their commercial relation to each other, in the state of foreign countries.

“The third plan is, That the two kingdoms agree on certain moderate duties to be imposed on the importation of goods, the growth and manufacture of the other, such as will secure a due preference in the home market to the like articles of its own growth and manufacture, and yet leave to the sister kingdom advantages, though not equal to its own, yet superior to those granted to any foreign country. The duties now payable on British goods imported into Ireland seem, by their moderation, as well adapted to answer this purpose, as any that could be devised; but to make this system complete, there should be added proper regulations with respect to bounties in future, and with respect to the duties on raw materials imported into each kingdom.

“It is in the judgment of the committee, a great recommendation of this plan, that if it should now be carried into execution, and become the system to which both countries shall be bound hereafter to conform, it will secure them in future from those unpleasant contests, to which, in pursuit of their respective interests, they may otherwise be exposed; and your Majesty, as sovereign of the two kingdoms, will be relieved from the disagreeable situation of having laws presented to you by their respective Houses of Parliament, for your royal assent, which, though beneficial to one of your kingdoms, may, in their operation, be highly detrimental to the interests of the other.

“The committee humbly take leave to refer your Majesty to the information given by the merchants and manufacturers, for what relates to the particular branches of commerce in which they are respectively engaged, and to the observations made thereon. They think it right, however, in general to observe, that the duties intended to be imposed, according to the proposed plan, on the importation into Great Britain of goods, the growth and manufacture of Ireland, appear to them to be a sufficient preference in the home market, which is the only object at present to be considered; for Ireland, as well as Great Britain, has already a right to supply its own market, and the markets of foreign countries, with any goods of its growth and manufacture, subject only to such duties and restrictions as its own legislature shall think proper to impose.

“The duties imposed by this plan on woollen goods imported from Ireland, will be lower than those on any other article of Irish growth or manufacture, being about 6d. per yard on old drapery, and 2d. on new; which is, on an average, not more than five per cent.; and yet the merchants and manufacturers, in this branch of commerce, whom the committee have examined, appear by their evidence to have very little apprehension of a competition. The duties on the importation of all other goods of the growth and manufacture of Ireland into

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this kingdom, will, according to the proposed plan, be at least ten per cent. and on some articles considerably more, which, with the charge of freight, insurance, commission, and port charges, will, in the judgment of the committee, be amply sufficient to secure a due preference to the subjects of Great Britain in their own market; especially if we add to what has been already mentioned, the skill of established manufactures, and the advantages arising from long credit and great capitals: and it ought to be considered, that if the Irish should be able to extend their trade in some branches of manufacture, which will probably at first be of inferior kinds, where labour rather than skill is required, the British trader in return will have his advantage in the superior articles of manufacture, for which, by his skill and experience, he may be better qualified; which advantage the proposed plan will secure to him against the non-importation agreements, or any new laws that might be otherwise made to his detriment. And as the people of Ireland increase in wealth, in consequence of the extension thus given to their commerce, the subjects of Great Britain will necessarily derive advantages from it, by the larger sale of those commodities in which they particularly excel.

“ The committee have also taken into consideration the second question referred to them by your Majesty, viz. what preferences are now given to the importation of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Ireland, by any duty or prohibition on the importation, use, or sale of the like articles from foreign parts; and how far it may be the interest of Great Britain in future to continue or to alter the same.

“ For their information on this head, the committee called for two accounts, which have been presented to them by the commissioners of your Majesty's customs in England. The first account states the preference given to the linen manufacturers of Ireland, on exportation from Great Britain, over that of foreign countries. On Irish linen, under 5d. a yard, from Great Britain to Africa, America, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Minorca, or the East Indies, a bounty of one-halfpenny per yard is given; of the value of 5d. and under 6d. a bounty of one penny per yard; of the value of 6d. and under 1s. 6d. a bounty of three halfpence per yard. The second account states the articles of Irish produce, that are favoured in the duties on importation into Great Britain: the articles are provisions, cattle, skins, hides, cable and cordage, flax and hemp, sail cloth and canvas, iron, pitch, tar and rosin, rape seed and cakes, wood and yarn. Almost all of these are imported free, or with only a small duty; while from France, and other parts of Europe, some are prohibited, and many of them subjected to very high duties.

“ On considering the several articles of Irish growth and manufacture, to which, according to the foregoing accounts, preferences are given, it does not appear to the committee that there is any reason for altering the same: according to the true principles of reciprocity, the Irish ought to grant the same bounty on British linen exported from Ireland, as is now paid on Irish linen exported from Great Britain. It would be very inconvenient, and even detrimental to the commerce of Great Britain, in its intercourse with foreign nations, to say, that these preferences should at no time and in no respect be altered; but the committee are of opinion, that some sufficient preference should always be given to the foregoing articles, being the growth or manufacture of Ireland, on their importation, use, or sale in Great Britain.”

In the mean time, the merchants and manufacturers who had been examined before the committee, joined by great numbers of others from every part of the nation, met together for the purpose of taking the Irish propositions into their consideration. During the course of their proceedings it appeared, that the opinions of the former by no means coincided with the

inferences

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1785 inferences which had been drawn from their examination in the report laid before Parliament.

This circumstance must appear the more singular, as many of the persons examined were precisely the same individuals in both cases. This difference, however, may in some degree be reconciled if we consider, that in the first case the questions were prepared by the reporters, who must be represented, whatever impartiality or rectitude we may chuse to ascribe to them, as having a specific system to vindicate. In the other case, the witnesses presented themselves at the bar of a mixed assembly: they were examined by persons of various descriptions; some who considered themselves as pledged for the proposed system, some who warmly interested themselves in its overthrow and annihilation, and a few who, unwarpd by any previous sentiments, were desirous to deduce their opinion from the result of the whole. Many of the persons examined were men of acknowledged opulence, integrity, and commercial knowledge; among them were Mr. Wedgewood, of Staffordshire; Messrs. Walker, Richardson and Peele, of Manchester; Mr. Robertson, of Glasgow, and Mr. Gibbons, of Bristol.

The number of petitions presented against the Irish propositions, amounted in the whole to upwards of sixty. They were sent up to Parliament from almost every quarter of the kingdom, and there was scarcely a single species of manufacture or merchandize, upon the subject of which the persons peculiarly interested did not appear to have conceived a considerable degree of alarm.

During the months of March, April and May, the House of Commons was occupied in receiving the petitions and hearing the evidence of manufacturers and merchants of every description. This laborious and minute mode of investigation being compleated, on the 12th of May the propositions were again brought forward by Mr. Pitt, with many amendments, variations and additions. To the original set of propositions, ten new ones were added, some of them only supplemental to, and explanatory of the former, while some of them contained much new and important matter. We shall, therefore, insert them in their enlarged state, and as they were finally returned to the Parliament of Ireland.

“ I. That it is highly important to the interests of both countries, that the commerce between Great Britain and Ireland should be finally regulated on permanent and equitable principles, for the mutual benefit of both countries.

“ II. That a full participation of commercial advantages should be permanently secured to Ireland, whenever a provision equally permanent and secure, shall be made by the Parliament of that kingdom, towards defraying, in proportion to its growing prosperity, the necessary expences, in time of peace, of protecting the trade and general interests of the empire.

“ III. That towards carrying into full effect so desirable a settlement, it is fit and proper that all articles, not the growth or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, except those of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, to the Streights of Magellan, should be imported into each kingdom from the other reciprocally, under the same regulations, and at the same duties (if subject to duties) to which they would be liable, when imported directly from the country or place from whence the same may have been imported into Great Britain or Ireland respectively, as the case may be; and that all duties originally paid on importation into either country respectively, except on arrack and foreign brandy, and on rum, and all sorts of strong waters not imported from the British colonies in the West Indies, shall be fully drawn back on exportation to the other. But, nevertheless, that the duties shall continue to be protected and guarded, as at present, by withholding the drawback,

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1785 drawback, until a certificate from the proper officers of the revenue in the kingdom to which the export may be made, shall be returned and compared with the entry outwards.

“ IV. That it is highly important to the general interests of the British empire, that the laws for regulating trade and navigation should be the same in Great Britain and Ireland; and, therefore, that it is essential towards carrying into effect the present settlement, that all laws which have been made, or shall be made in Great Britain, for securing exclusive privileges to the ships and mariners of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British colonies and plantations, and for regulating and restraining the trade of the British colonies and plantations; such laws imposing the same restraints, and conferring the same benefits on the subjects of both kingdoms, should be in force in Ireland, by laws to be passed by the Parliament of that kingdom for the same time, and in the same manner as in Great Britain.

“ V. That it is further essential to this settlement, that all goods and commodities of the growth, produce, or manufacture of British or foreign colonies in America or the West Indies, and the British or foreign settlements on the coast of Africa, imported into Ireland, should, on importation, be subject to the same duties and regulations, as the like goods are, or from time to time shall be subject to, upon importation into Great Britain; or if prohibited from being imported into Great Britain, shall in like manner be prohibited from being imported into Ireland.

“ VI. That in order to prevent illicit practices, injurious to the revenue and commerce of both kingdoms, it is expedient that all goods, whether of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, or of any foreign country, which shall be hereafter imported into Great Britain from Ireland, or into Ireland from Great Britain, should be put, by laws to be passed in the Parliaments of the two kingdoms, under the same regulations with respect to bonds, cockets, and other instruments, to which the like goods are now subject in passing from one port of Great Britain to another.

“ VII. That for the like purpose, it is also expedient that, when any goods, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British West India islands, or any other of the British colonies or Plantations, shall be shipped from Ireland for Great Britain, they should be accompanied with such original certificates of the revenue officers of the said colonies, as shall be required by the law on importation into Great Britain; and that when the whole quantity, included in one certificate, shall not be shipped at any one time, the original certificate, properly indorsed as to quantity, should be sent with the first parcel; and to identify the remainder, if shipped at any future period, new certificates should be granted by the principal officers of the ports in Ireland, extracted from a register of the original document, specifying the quantities before shipped from thence, by what vessels and to what ports.

“ VIII. That it is essential for carrying into effect the present settlement, that all goods exported from Ireland to the British colonies in the West Indies, or in America, or to the British settlements on the coast of Africa, should, from time to time, be made liable to such duties and drawbacks, and put under such regulations as may be necessary, in order that the same may not be exported with less incumbrance of duties or imposition than the like goods shall be burthened with when exported from Great Britain.

“ IX. That it is essential to the general commercial interests of the empire, that so long as the Parliament of this kingdom shall think it adviseable that the commerce to the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope shall be carried on solely by an exclusive company, having liberty to import into the port of London only, no goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of

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1785 any countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope should be importable into Ireland from any foreign country, or from any settlement in the East Indies belonging to any such foreign country; and that no goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the said countries, should be allowed to be imported into Ireland but through Great Britain; and it shall be lawful to export such goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, from Great Britain to Ireland, with the same duties retained thereon as are now retained on their being exported to that kingdom; but that an account shall be kept of the duties retained, and the net drawback on the said goods imported to Ireland; and the amount thereof shall be remitted by the receiver general of his Majesty's customs in Great Britain to the proper officers of the revenue in Ireland, to be placed to the account of his Majesty's revenue there, subject to the disposal of the Parliament of that kingdom; and that whenever the commerce to the said countries shall cease to be carried on by an exclusive company, in the goods of the produce of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, the goods should be importable into Ireland from countries from which they may be importable into Great Britain and no other; and that no vessel should be cleared out from Ireland, for any part of the countries from the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, but such as shall be freighted in Ireland by the said exclusive company, and shall have sailed from the port of London; and that the ships going from Great Britain to any of the said countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, should not be restrained from touching at any of the ports in Ireland, and taking on board there any of the goods of the growth, produce, or manufacture of that kingdom.

“X. That no prohibition should exist, in either country, against the importation, use, or sale of any article, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except such as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour and biscuits; and except such qualified prohibitions at present contained in any act of the British or Irish Parliament, as do not absolutely prevent the importation of goods or manufactures, or materials of manufactures, but only regulate the weight, the size, the packages, or other particular circumstances; or prescribe the build or country, and dimensions of the ship importing the same; and also except on arms, ammunition, gunpowder, and other utensils of war, importable only by virtue of his Majesty's licence; and that the duty on the importation of every such article, (if subject to duty in either country) should be precisely the same in one country as in the other, except where an addition may be necessary in either country, in consequence of an internal duty on any such article of its own consumption, or in consequence of internal bounties in the country where such article is grown, produced, or manufactured, and except such duties as either kingdom may judge expedient, from time to time, upon corn, meal, flour, malt and biscuits.

“XI. That in all cases, where the duties on articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of either country, are different on the importation into the other, it is expedient that they should be reduced, in the kingdom where they are the highest, to an amount not exceeding the amount payable in the other; so that the same shall not be less than ten and an half per cent. where any article was charged with a duty on importation into Ireland of ten and an half per cent. or upwards, previous to the 17th day of May, 1782; and that all such articles should be exportable, from the kingdom into which they shall be imported, as free from duty as the similar commodities or home manufactures of the same kingdom.

“XII. That it is also proper, that in all cases, where the articles of the consumption of either kingdom shall be charged with an internal duty on the manufacture, the said manufacture,

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1785 ture, when imported from the other, may be charged with a further duty on importation, not adequate to countervail the internal duty on the manufacture, as far as relates to the duties now charged thereon; such further duty to continue so long only as the internal consumption shall not be charged with the duty or duties to balance which it shall be imposed; and that, where there is a duty on the importation of the raw material of any manufacture in one kingdom greater than the like duty on raw materials in the other, such manufacture may, on its importation into the other kingdom, be charged with such a countervailing duty, as may be sufficient to subject the same, so imported, to burdens adequate to those which the manufacture composed of the like raw material is subject to, in consequence of duties on the importation of such material in the kingdom into which such manufacture is so imported; and the said manufacture so imported, shall be entitled to such drawbacks or bounties on exportation, as may leave the same subject to no heavier burden than the home-made manufacture.

“XIII. That, in order to give permanency to the settlement now intended to be established, it is necessary that no new or additional duties should be hereafter imposed, in either kingdom, on the importation of any article of the growth, produce or manufacture of the other; except such additional duties as may be requisite to balance the duties on internal consumption, pursuant to the foregoing resolution, or in consequence of bounties remaining on such articles when exported from the other kingdom.

“XIV. That for the same purpose it is necessary further, that no prohibition, or new or additional duties, shall be hereafter imposed in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article of native growth, produce, or manufacture, from one kingdom to the other, except such as either kingdom may deem expedient from time to time, upon corn, meal, malt, flour and biscuits.

“XV. That for the same purpose, it is necessary that no bounties whatever should be paid or payable in either kingdom, on the exportation of any article to the other, except such as relate to corn, meal, malt, flour and biscuits, and except also the bounties at present given by Great Britain on beer and spirits distilled from corn, and such as are in the nature of drawbacks or compensations for duties paid; and that no bounty should be payable on the exportation of any article to any British colonies or plantations, or to the British settlements on the coast of Africa, or on the exportation of any article imported from the British plantations, or from the British settlements on the coast of Africa, or British settlements in the East Indies, or any manufacture made of such article, unless in cases where a similar bounty is payable in Great Britain, on exportation from thence, or where such bounty is merely in the nature of a drawback or compensation of or for duties paid, over and above any duties paid thereon in Great Britain; and where any internal bounty shall be given in either kingdom, on any goods manufactured therein, and shall remain on such goods when exported, a countervailing duty, adequate thereto, may be laid upon the importation of the said goods into the other kingdom.

“XVI. That it is expedient for the general benefit of the British empire, that the importation of articles from foreign countries should be regulated from time to time in each kingdom, on such terms as may effectually favour the importation of similar articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the other, except in the cases of materials of manufactures, which are, or hereafter may be allowed to be imported from foreign countries, duty free; and that in all cases where any articles are or may be subject to higher duties on importation into this kingdom, from the countries belonging to any of the States of North America, than the like goods are or may be subject to when imported as the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British

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1785 colonies and plantations, or as the produce of fisheries carried on by British subjects, such articles shall be subject to the same duties on importation into Ireland, from the countries belonging to any of the States of North America, as the same are or may be subject to on importation from the said countries into this kingdom.

“ XVII. That it is expedient that measures should be taken to prevent disputes touching the exercise of the right of the inhabitants of each kingdom to fish on the coast of any part of the British dominions.

“ XVIII. That it is expedient that such privileges of printing and vending books as are or may be legally possessed within Great Britain, under the grant of the crown or otherwise, and the copy-rights of the authors and booksellers of Great Britain, should continue to be protected in the manner they are at present by the laws of Great Britain; and that it is just that measures should be taken by the Parliament of Ireland, for giving the like protection to the copy-right of the authors and booksellers of that kingdom.

“ XIX. That it is expedient that regulations should be adopted with respect to patents, to be hereafter granted, for the encouragement of new inventions, so that the rights, privileges and restrictions thereon granted and contained, shall be of equal duration and force throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

“ XX. That the appropriation of whatever sum the gross hereditary revenue of the kingdom of Ireland (the due collection thereof being secured by permanent provisions) shall produce, after deducting all drawbacks, re-payments, or bounties granted in the nature of drawbacks, over and above the sum of 656,000*l.* in each year, towards the support of the naval force of the empire, to be applied in such manner as the Parliament of Ireland shall direct, by an act to be passed for that purpose, will be a satisfactory provision, proportioned to the growing prosperity of that kingdom, towards defraying, in time of peace, the necessary expences of protecting the trade and general interests of the empire.

The chief object of the additional propositions, was to provide, first, That whatever navigation laws the British Parliament should hereafter find it necessary to enact for the preservation of the marine, the same should be passed by the legislature of Ireland. Secondly, Against the importing into Ireland, and from thence into Great Britain, of any other West India merchandizes than such as were the produce of our own colonies; and thirdly, That Ireland should debar itself from trading to any of the countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope to the Streights of Magellan, so long as it should be thought necessary to continue the charter of the East India Company.

In the course of the debates upon the propositions as they stood with these amendments and additions, that which met with the most vigorous opposition, independent of such general reasoning as went against the system altogether, was the fourth in which Great Britain, it was asserted, assumed both a present and future power to bind Ireland by such acts as she should pass relative to the trade and commerce of both kingdoms. This was stated to be in direct opposition to what had been solemnly stipulated betwixt the two kingdoms; namely, that Ireland was in future only to be bound by her own statutes,—that it was a resumption of the right of legislating for Ireland, which this country had renounced,—that it was bartering the liberties of Ireland for the advantages held out to that kingdom by the system now proposed, and thereby purchasing Irish slavery at the expence of English commerce.

With respect to the last proposition, which stipulated, that whenever there should be a surplus of the revenue of Ireland, over and above the sum of 656,000*l.* such surplus should be applied

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1785 applied to the support of the British navy, it was urged, that if this was held forth as a compensation for advantages voluntarily resigned by Great Britain, nothing could be more fallacious, the present net revenue of that kingdom being little more than 333,000*l.* and therefore little more than half the stipulated sum, over and above which the surplus only was to be applied in aid of the public revenue of this country.

The arguments which were offered generally and against the whole of the proposed system, went chiefly upon the supposed injury which the manufactures and commerce of Great Britain would sustain from it: the former, from the comparative small price of labour in Ireland, which alone, it was contended, would soon enable that kingdom to undersell us both at home and abroad; the latter, from the facility with which it was well known the revenue laws in Ireland were evaded.

The impossibility of preventing the clandestine importation of a variety of the most important articles, was strongly insisted on; and it was added, that the competition which would arise between the two kingdoms, which should sell cheapest, would, of course, encrease the evil: finally, it was argued, that such was the nature of the propositions, that in whatever proportion one country might benefit from them, in the very same degree the other would become a loser.

In favour of the system it was argued, that it was a measure of absolute necessity, in order to put an end to the discontents which preyed to so alarming a degree in the sister kingdom.— That if the present propositions were not passed into a law, all that had already been done in favour of Ireland would prove nugatory, as it was clearly inadequate to the expectations of that country.

That with respect to the fourth proposition, it was a condition which the safety of our own navigation laws made it necessary to annex to the boon granted to Ireland. That it was illiberal to infer from hence, that the British legislature had any views of trenching on the independence of Ireland, since it left to that kingdom the option of taking or refusing the advantages held out to her subject to such a condition. That the condition itself was such as had frequently been adopted in the negotiations of independent states, as in the late treaty between this kingdom and France, when the latter bound herself to publish certain edicts, as soon as other edicts stipulated on our part, were published by this country.

With respect to the disadvantages which it had been supposed our manufacturers would have to encounter from the comparative small price of labour in Ireland, it was said, that such a misapprehension arose from a misconception of the real fact. That the wages of artizans and manufacturers, although not of common labourers, were higher there than in this country, and therefore there was little likelihood of their being able to undersell us on that ground: nor could our commerce be in any danger from the reasons which had been alleged, since the prohibitions and restrictions, contained in the propositions, were sufficient as well to prevent any clandestine importation of foreign goods into Ireland, as to insure the duties payable on all such as might be legally imported.

It was also urged, that when the principle of the compensation on the part of Ireland was objected to, it should be remembered that, in all the former proceedings on making concessions to Ireland, it was the universal ground of objection, that Ireland did not bear any proportion of the expences incurred in the expenditure for the general protection of the empire; but, at present, Ireland was willing to prove, that she did not demand a participation of our commercial advantages, without contributing, in an adequate proportion, to the expences incurred

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1785 curred in the defence of them. It was not very reasonable to expect that Ireland should, in former times, have appropriated any particular part of her revenue for naval purposes. One great source of wealth was denied to the inhabitants of that country, in the colonial trade, which was considered as a *peculium* of the British commerce. The contrary, however, was now the case; and while a certain specific appropriation should be made for public purposes, there was no exclusion of the exercise of generosity and liberality in the Irish Parliament, whenever the unforeseen events or the natural contingencies of a war might call for it. As to the hereditary revenue, it was insisted that its increase had borne, and might be expected to continue to bear, an exact proportion to the increasing wealth and opulence of the country.—As to the grant of the surplus above 656,000*l.* it is certainly a diminution of the royal power and property, and has been liberally conceded to strengthen the whole empire by a great commercial adjustment between these two kingdoms. In short, it was insisted by the friends to the propositions, that, on a fair and attentive examination of their principles, they would appear to be, first, to encourage and extend, as much as possible, the trade between the two kingdoms, on permanent and equitable principles; secondly, that the inhabitants of each should trade to and from the British colonies, settlements, and dominions, in every part of the globe, now or hereafter to be planted or acquired, on equal terms, both by direct and circuitous voyages.

The propositions, after having been agitated upwards of three months, and after having received a variety of amendments and alterations, finally passed the House of Commons by a large majority; and, on the 30th of May, were carried up to the House of Lords. They here again encountered a very spirited opposition, and received some amendments, though by no means of a material nature.

The propositions having thus passed both Houses, a bill founded on them was brought into the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which was read the first time before the end of the session, and was followed by an address to his Majesty by both Houses of Parliament, wherein they acquainted him with what they had done in this business; adding, at the same time, that it remained for the Parliament of Ireland to judge of the conditions according to their wisdom and discretion, as well as of every other part of the settlement proposed to be established by mutual consent.

On the 12th of August, the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland moved the House of Commons of that kingdom to bring in a bill correspondent to that moved by the English minister. The debates on this occasion were long and animated. Whatever had the least appearance of infringing on the legislative independence of Ireland, was opposed in terms of the highest disapprobation. The perpetual disposition of her hereditary revenue by the last proposition,—the surrender of her commercial legislation by the fourth,—and the restraint imposed on her from trading beyond the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Magellan by the ninth, were put in every point of view in which argument and eloquence could place them.

In favour of the bill it was argued, that the fourth proposition, which had excited so much jealousy and alarm, could not, on any fair construction, be said to take from Ireland her right of commercial legislation, any more than the acts passed in the years 1779 and 1782 had done before; wherein Ireland had stipulated to trade with the British colonies and settlements in such manner as Great Britain herself traded, to adopt the same restrictions and regulations. That, in the bill before them, it was proposed to trade with Great Britain on the same principle; the liberty of either complying with the conditions, or renouncing the agreement *in toto*, whenever

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1785 the conditions should be obnoxious and dissatisfactory, would be left, by the present bill, full as much in the power of the Irish Parliament as it was by either of the foregoing acts. The only difference was, that, by the former acts, Ireland had subscribed to the commercial laws which had been adopted by Great Britain for 290 years back; by the present, to such as that country should bind itself to in future; but that it would be still in the power of the Irish Parliament to renounce these laws, and the whole agreement together, whenever it thought proper. On the other hand, the commercial advantages offered to Ireland by the bill, were stated to be very important; the linen trade was thereby secured to her for ever; the colony trade, through Ireland to Great Britain, was given her; the British markets were thrown open to Irish manufactures: and again, as these manufactures were allowed to be re-exported from Great Britain, with a drawback of all duties, the Irish would, in effect, export on the foundation of British capital, at the same time that they were left to employ their own capital in the extension of their home manufactures.

The House at length divided upon the question; when there appeared for leave to bring in the bill, 127 against 108. So small a majority in favour of such an important measure, was considered in the light of a defeat; for although Mr. Orde afterwards moved to have the bill read a second time, and to be printed, he observed, that having done this, he did not intend to make any further progress in the business during the present session. He had resolved to wait till the people had leisure to examine and understand it; and though he was induced to suppose that a considerable time would be necessary for that purpose, he entertained no doubt, but that the more it was understood, the more it would be found for the benefit and advantage of the country, and the less reason would be discovered to impute any thing to it hostile to the constitution; nor would he again bring it forward at all, until the nation in general should grow into a better liking of the measure.

Thus terminated the intended commercial arrangement between Great Britain and Ireland, after having, for seven months, employed the attention of both kingdoms.

We have mentioned, under the preceding years, the plan formed for the settlement of a considerable number of Genevese; who had communicated their desire to establish themselves in Ireland. The commissioners who were sent to Dublin on this occasion, received the greatest personal attention from all ranks of people. Their request with respect to the admission of their countrymen into Ireland, was complied with; and a particular tract of land, in the county of Waterford, was set apart for the new settlers.

But notwithstanding these preparations, the whole scheme, in the end, proved abortive.—The terms insisted upon by the Genevese, previous to their becoming subjects of a new state, were, first, that they should be represented in Parliament; secondly, that they should be formed into a distinct corporation; and, thirdly, that they should be governed by their own laws. The first of these conditions might have been a matter of opinion, and subject to discussion; but the two last were held to be incompatible with the laws and the constitution of Ireland; and, as such, were totally rejected.

This disagreement on these leading points, put an end to all further procedure in the business. Some of the Genevese, however, transported themselves into Ireland; but they soon found, by experience, that nothing was gained by changing their situation; and most of them, after a short stay, quitted the kingdom.

The reciprocal advantages which might have accrued to Ireland and the Genevese emigrants from the proposed settlement, even had it taken place in the fullest extent, could never, it is presumed,

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1785 presumed, have equalled, or been in any degree proportionable to the sanguine expectations some men had been led to form on the subject. The Genevese being chiefly mechanics, must have been ill suited, from their former habits of life, to the labour of agriculture; and they were to be settled in a part of Ireland where their subsistence would have depended much more upon those labours, than all the mechanical ingenuity which they possessed.

Early in the preceding year, there had been a great scarcity of provisions at Newfoundland; and at the period when the necessities of the settlers were most urgent, several vessels arrived there from America laden with provisions. On this occasion, Admiral Campbell, the governor of Newfoundland, was much at a loss how to act: his own opinion was, that the provisions might be legally imported.—He, however, summoned a council, and took the best advice he could upon the spot. The council were unanimously of opinion with the governor; and, under that sanction, the provisions were permitted to be landed. An account of these proceedings was transmitted home by Admiral Campbell, with a requisition of the advice and authority of government how to act for the future in similar cases; as it was necessary to ascertain how far any subject of commerce might be legally imported, though in British bottoms, from an independent state, to any of the colonies of England. To settle this point, a bill for confining, for a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America and his Majesty's subjects in the island of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, and live-stock, to be imported in none but British-built ships, actually belonging to British subjects, &c. was brought into Parliament, as there was a doubt whether the intercourse bill with the United States extended to this object.

A difficulty, however, was started upon this subject, and urged with equal warmth and perseverance. It was observed that this bill was in direct opposition to the navigation laws of this country, the leading principle of which was, that foreign produce could not be imported into the British colonies without being previously landed in this kingdom. It was also observed, that Canada and Nova Scotia, as well as the traders of this country, were competent to supply the island of Newfoundland with every thing that could be obtained from the States of America; and that the bill in question was founded in a partial indulgence to the merchants of Poole and Dartmouth. It was, at the same time, proposed to call in evidence to prove the truth of the latter opinions.

On the other hand, it was insisted, that the intercourse in British ships between the ports of Newfoundland and those of the United States, had, for the last two years, been actually established; that though, in a few years, the exports from Nova Scotia and Canada might be sufficient to supply Newfoundland, they were not then in a condition to answer the urgent demands of the present moment; and that if England could furnish grain at a rate sufficiently cheap for the purpose, there could be no doubt but the English merchant would have the preference. The hearing of evidence was objected to from the urgency of the case; and the bill finally received the sanction of the legislature.

In consequence of the debts of the Nabob of Arcot, their suspicious appearance, and mischievous influence on the government of the Carnatic, the examination into their nature and circumstances was referred, by the regulating India bill of the last session, to the court of directors, as far as the materials they were in possession of should enable them to do; and that they should give such orders to their presidencies and servants abroad, for completing the investigation thereof, as the nature of the question shall require; and for establishing, in concert with the Nabob of Arcot, such funds for the discharge of those debts which shall appear to be justly

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1785 due, according to their respective rights of priority, as shall be consistent with the rights of the India Company, the security of the creditors, and the honour and dignity of the Nabob.

The court of directors, in execution of the trust reposed in them, prepared orders to be sent to their council at Madras, in which, after stating the suspicious circumstances under which many of the debts appeared to them to have been contracted, they directed them, in obedience to the positive injunctions of the act, to proceed to a more complete investigation of the nature and origin thereof. These orders being communicated to the board of controul, were rejected by them, and a new letter drawn up, in which the claims of the creditors were all, with some little limitations, established, and a fund for their discharge assigned out of the revenues of the Carnatic, and the priority of payment settled amongst the several classes of creditors. At a meeting of such of the Nabob's creditors as were in England, these orders were publicly read; and on the ground of such a proceeding, a motion was made in the House of Lords for copies or extracts of all letters or orders issued by the court of directors, in pursuance of the injunctions contained in the 37th and 38th clauses of the regulating act of the last session.

In support of the motion, the dangerous consequences of suffering the board of controul to supersede the authority of a positive act of Parliament, and the suspicious circumstance of its clandestine interference in an enormous money transaction, the management of which had been expressly delegated to other persons by an act of the legislature, were strongly insisted on. On the other hand, it was asserted, that the conduct of the board had been within the strict letter of the statute, inasmuch as they were enabled by a clause in the act, to originate orders, in cases of urgent necessity, and to direct their being transmitted to India; nor had these orders been given till after a careful and sufficient examination into the subject. The motion was rejected without a division: a similar motion was made in the House of Commons, and shared a similar fate.

On the 10th of June, petitions were presented to the Commons from the merchants of London, Bristol, and Glasgow, trading in tobacco. The object of the petitions was to obtain a consolidation of the various imports into one specific charge, as well as some measure to be selected by the legislature for the reduction of the existing duties, or the suppression of illicit trade. In support of these petitions, the following information on the subject was authentically stated.

When the commerce of America was at its height, the imports from that country to Great Britain, if valued at their prime cost, amounted to about 1,500,000*l.* per annum; of which sum no less than 700,000*l.* consisted of tobacco; so that the trade in the article of tobacco comprized very near one-half of all the imports from America to Britain. This important trade, of which, at that period, Great Britain was exclusively possessed, but which has since been unfortunately interrupted, would, if the obstacles stated in the petition could be removed, unquestionably return to its ancient and natural channel. This is evident, from many reasons that might be produced, if the following ones were not sufficient.

The market of France annually affords a sale for 25,000 hogsheads of tobacco; yet, with all her industry, the utmost she could obtain from America, in the preceding year, was 1,200 hogsheads.

Holland, including the market of Germany, which she usually supplies, affords a sale for 18,000 hogsheads a year; yet, in the course of the last year, she received from America no more than 5,000 hogsheads. Thus it appeared, that France and Holland together, imported

directly

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1785 directly from America no more than 6,200 hogheads of tobacco last year, while Britain alone imported, in the same time, more than 30,000. Such is the superiority of English manufactures,—such the superior credit of her merchants,—such the predilection of the American planters for the country of their ancient correspondence. But however strongly the trade of America inclined to its former course, it never could make a durable return, unless the obstacles that gave rise to these petitions were removed. To effect this salutary purpose, a bill was brought in by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the better securing the duties payable upon tobacco; and also, on introducing it, declared, that the revenue at present arising from that article, scarce exceeds one-half of what the net duty would be, if it were paid on the whole quantity consumed in the kingdom.

On the 4th of July, Mr. Beaufoy, who had some days before presented a report to the House from the committee appointed to enquire into the state of the British fisheries, and into the most effectual means of their extension and improvement, made a motion to take the particulars of the said report into consideration. In support of certain resolutions which he afterwards moved, and which principally related to the herring fishery, he observed, that this fishery had been engrossed from us by the Dutch; and that the bounties, amounting to little less than 20,000*l.* a year, had been an useless expence. This was attributed by the committee to the circumstance of the English vessels not being permitted to sail till the 1st of October, though the fishery, in reality, commenced as early as the 1st of June. The vessels were also obliged by law to make a circuitous voyage, while the Dutch made a direct one. Various other evils were stated, and proposed to be redressed; and it was particularly urged to the House, from our success in the Newfoundland and Greenland fisheries, that the superiority of the Dutch in the fishery in question, was not owing to any inherent or unalienable advantage. It was only in the fishery for herrings, a fishery upon her own coasts, and which she alone could continue through the winter, and thus unite the advantage of both seasons, that the exertions of Britain had failed of success, and wherein Holland had preserved the ascendancy.

The resolutions were as follow:—

“ That every buss or fishing vessel, properly fitted out, and furnished as by law required for vessels entered for the bounty, shall be allowed to clear out of any port of Great Britain at any time between the 1st of June and the 1st of October, and to proceed immediately to her fishing station, and to cast her nets, without being obliged to rendezvous at any other port or place.

“ That the masters of busses or other vessels employed in the herring fishery, shall be at liberty to purchase fresh herrings of the boat fishers, (being British subjects) and to ship the herrings which they shall take, or which they shall purchase as aforesaid, on board any attendant British vessel, with permission to land the same, under proper regulations, in any of the ports of Great Britain, upon oath being made by the master of the smaller vessel so landing them as aforesaid, or by the owner of the fish, that the fish were, to the best of his knowledge and belief, caught by British subjects; provided that, if the attendant vessel which shall sail with such fish, shall land them at any other port than that from which the principal vessel cleared out, a proper certificate of the number of barrels of salted fish so landed, shall be obtained from the principal officer of customs at such port, before the bond for the duties on the salt taken on board the principal vessel shall be discharged: and, provided also, that no buss or vessel returning to port within the space of three months after her clearance outwards, unless

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less with a full cargo, the whole of which shall have been taken, and cured or salted by such busses or vessel, shall be entitled to a bounty.

“ That for reviving and encouraging the cod fishery in the North seas and in Iceland, the owner of any vessel employed therein, shall be at liberty to use, in the said fishery, British made salt, duty free; and to warehouse, under the key of the officer, any surplus salt remaining in such vessel, upon her return to the place of her out-fit, under the like rules and regulations as are provided for surplus salt brought back in vessels employed in the herring fishery.

“ That all busses, and other fishing vessels, shall, in future, be permitted to be entered for the bounty, without any limitation of their burthen or tonnage; vessels of less than 20 tons excepted: nor shall any buss or vessel be entitled to the bounty for more than 80 tons, although of a larger burthen.

“ That all busses and vessels employed in the herring fisheries, shall be at liberty, during the time of their continuance at sea, to catch and cure cod, ling, and hake, as well as herrings, and shall be subject to the same regulations, and shall have the same privilege of curing the said other species of fish with salt duty free, as in the case of herrings; but that no bounty shall be allowed on the exportation of the said other species of fish; and, therefore, that such other shall be marked, by cutting their tails in the manner prescribed for marking fish cured for home consumption.”

After some attempts to postpone the consideration of this important subject to another period, the resolutions were agreed to, and a bill ordered in upon them.

The number of ships employed from England in the whale fishery, to Davis's Straits and the Greenland seas, in the course of this year, amounted to 139,—carrying 47,000 tons, and navigated by 6,600 men and boys, besides 15 ships from Scotland. The number of ships from Holland in the same fishery, and during the same period, amounted to 65.

His Danish Majesty issued a proclamation in this year for encouraging foreigners, as well as natives, to embark in the whale and seal fisheries from that kingdom to Greenland, Iceland, &c. by which a bounty of 15 rix-dollars per Danish commercial last (or about 30s. sterling per ton, British measurement) was offered to persons chusing to embark in that trade from the said kingdom; to be paid down in cash before the ship is fitted out, on security being given that such vessel or vessels shall be ready, and do sail on that errand, (wind and weather permitting) at the time appointed in the royal proclamation.

Persons engaging in this trade, to have free permission to employ, for the service of the fishery, foreign mechanics, harpooners, boat-steerers, &c. of what nation soever. Such foreigners, so long as they continue in this employ, to be free from all manner of taxes and burthens, and have leave to quit the kingdom, with all their effects, whenever they think proper. No exceptions are made to ships foreign built, whether oak or ash. Every ship, however, was to bring its cargo direct to the Danish market, to be sold there by private or public contract, except an express order was given for its exportation.

It was further permitted all owners and masters of ships sailing to those seas from the kingdom of Denmark, to trade with the Danish factories, or natives on the coasts, island of Iceland, &c. and to import foreign manufactures duty free, intended as articles of barter in the Greenland trade.

The Canada sales, in this year, amounted to 242,000l.

In

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1785 In consequence of the act, passed by the Parliament of Great Britain, to regulate the commerce between the British West India colonies, and the United States of America, the legislature of Massachusetts in North America, passed an act on the 23d of June in this year, prohibiting the exportation, from any part or harbour of the commonwealth, of any goods, wares, or merchandize, the growth, manufacture, or produce of any of the United States, in British ships, on pain of forfeiting the vessel, &c. This act contains also several subordinate clauses of regulation, which are not sufficiently material to state at large.

On the 10th of July, the King's council of France issued a decree respecting the importation of certain foreign goods. This decree prohibits all white or raw calicoes, and also linens and calicoes, handkerchiefs, dimities and nankeens, fabricated either in the Indies or any where else abroad, that are not the product of their India Company's trade; and also all kinds of foreign gauzes, lawns, &c. with the exception of foreign blue linens, striped, checked, dyed, painted, or stamped, for the Guinea trade. This was a general decree for the purpose of protecting the interests of the East India Company, and the manufactories of the kingdom: but a second decree, which was published on the 17th of the same month, levelled its prohibitions principally at the manufactures and produce of Great Britain.

All kinds of sadlery, hosiery, woollen cloths, hardwares, all polished steel wares, (except tools and instruments fit for arts and sciences) and also all kinds of foreign crystal and glass, on pain of the said goods being confiscated, and of being fined ten thousand livres. An exception is made for such as follow no trade, and who import the goods, wares, &c. only for their own use and personal consumption, on payment of 30 per cent. duty.

On the 8th of November in this year, a definitive treaty of peace took place between the Emperor of Germany and the States General, by which the navigation of the river Scheldt, the grand object of the late war between those two powers, remains, with very little and immaterial variation, in its former state.

On the same day a treaty of alliance was signed between his Most Christian Majesty and the States General. By this treaty, the Christian King and the States General promise to contribute all in their power to their respective security, and to preserve themselves in tranquillity, peace, and neutrality, as also the actual possession of all their estates, domains, franchises and liberties, and to protect each other from any hostile attack in all parts of the world; and in order the more positively to fix the extent of the guarantee with which his Majesty has charged himself, it is expressly stipulated, that it shall comprehend the treaty of Munster of 1648, and of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1748, except the derogations which the said treaties have undergone, or may undergo in future. The contracting parties engage to unite for the preservation of peace, and in case either of them are threatened with an attack, the other shall use his good offices to prevent hostilities: but if the said good offices shall prove ineffectual, his Christian Majesty and their High Mightinesses engage from this time to assist each other both by sea and land; for which purpose, his Christian Majesty shall furnish the States General with 10,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 12 sail of the line and 6 frigates; and their High Mightinesses, in case of a marine war, or in case his Majesty shall meet with any hostilities by sea, shall furnish 6 ships of the line and 3 frigates; and in case of an attack upon the French territory, the States General shall furnish their contingent of troops in money, at 10,000 Dutch florins per month for 1,000 infantry, and 30,000 florins per month for 1,000 cavalry: the estimate to be made on the footing of 5,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry. When a marine war shall be declared, in which

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1785 which neither of the contracting powers have any part, they shall mutually guarantee to each other the liberty of the seas, &c.

On the signing the foregoing treaties, a memorial was presented to the States by Sir James Harris, the British plenipotentiary at the Hague, which concludes in the following manner:

“ Yet if your High Mightinesses are of opinion, that, on account of the civil dissensions, which, for some time, have unfortunately prevailed within the Republic, to his Majesty's great concern, the present time is ill suited to the settling of the mutual interests of both nations, an object ever present to his Majesty, it is hoped, at least, that your High Mightinesses, after such assurances from the King, and all his Majesty's friendly dispositions towards the Republic, will think it suitable to your wonted wisdom, not to be drawn in to accept of any engagements which might, at any time, betray you into a system, contrary to that rectitude which hath ever guided his Majesty, or, by making you swerve from the solid basis of an independent neutrality, raise inseparable obstacles to the renewal of an alliance between the two powers, when time and circumstances may present it to your High Mightinesses as a matter of necessity and mutual conveniency, &c.”

On the second day of December in this year, John Temple, Esq. was received in the character of Consul General of his Britannic Majesty by the Congress of America.

The ship owners and others concerned in the coal trade, having, in the early part of this year, entered into a combination to enhance the price of coals, a common council was assembled, to whom the Lord Mayor stated this alarming circumstance. It was in consequence recommended to put the laws against unlawful combinations into execution; and application being made to the ministry, an advertisement appeared in the Gazette, with a declaration of his Majesty's pardon, and a reward of 200l. to any person concerned in such combination, who should discover the abettors or promoters of the same. At the same time the following notice was served on the coal buyers, coal factors, &c. by Mr. Saxby, the Water Bailiff, viz.

“ The Lord Mayor being extremely anxious, that the inhabitants of the city and parts adjacent may receive their ordinary supply of coals, and that the persons usually employed in the coal trade may no longer be kept out of employment, has directed me to give immediate notice to the coal owners, factors, and all others concerned in the coal trade, that unless the ships now in the river begin to unload their cargoes without further delay, his lordship is prepared and determined to carry into immediate effect the resolution of the Court of Common Council, and cause all persons to be brought to that punishment, which the common and statute laws of the realm have prepared for those who enter into combinations to obstruct the sale of that necessary commodity, and enhance the price thereof.

(Signed,) “ WILLIAM SAXBY,

July 29, 1785.

“ Water Bailiff of the City of London.”

An account of the number of gallons contained in the stills entered and used by distillers and rectifiers in the several collections in England and Wales, between the 10th of September, 1784, and the 5th of July, 1785, distinguishing rectifiers from distillers.

Collections.	Number of Gallons.		
	Distillers.	Rectifiers.	
Bristol,	63,848	26,720	
Cambridge,	—	182	
Canterbury,	—	412	
Chester,	—	149	
		Cornwall,	

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<i>Collections.</i>	<i>Distillers.</i>	<i>Number of Gall.</i>
Cornwall, — — —	63,848	892
Derby, — — —	—	192
Doncaster, — — —	—	379
Essex, — — —	—	998
Exeter, — — —	—	1,089
Gloucester, — — —	5,473	2,118
Hants, — — —	—	2,161
Hertford, — — —	11,326	—
Leeds, — — —	—	3,167
Litchfield, — — —	—	630
Liverpool, — — —	—	1,596
Manchester, — — —	—	1,165
Marlborough, — — —	—	210
Northumberland, — — —	3,347	—
Norwich, — — —	—	828
Oxford, — — —	—	475
Reading, — — —	—	1,077
Rocheſter, — — —	7,138	3,818
Salisbury, — — —	—	583
Salop, — — —	—	198
Sheffield, — — —	—	306
Suffolk, — — —	—	436
Surry, — — —	30,249	5,045
Uxbridge, — — —	—	687
Wolverhampton, — — —	—	1,071½
Worceſter, — — —	5,587	—
York, — — —	—	624
Total of the country, — — —	126,968	57,208½
Total of London, — — —	96,909	102,643½
Total of London and the country, — — —	223,877	159,852

Grand total 383,729 gallons, which, at a halfpenny per gallon, amounted to 799l. 8s. 8½d.
 An account of the amount of the revenue arising from the distillery in England, from the 1st
 of November, 1784, to the 5th of July, 1785.

<i>CORN DISTILLERY.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In London and its environs, — — —	—	—	—	279,788	19	7
— Bristol, — — —	14,566	5	0			
— Tewksbury, — — —	1,835	10	0			
— Worcester, — — —	7,430	10	0			
— Maidstone, — — —	6,287	19	1½			
— Berwick, — — —	4,131	5	10	34,251	1	0½
Total amount of the revenue of the corn distillery, — — —	—	—	—	314,040	0	7½

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MELASSES

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MELASSES DISTILLERY.

In London and its environs, — — — — —

— Bristol, — — — — —

Brought over,

£.	s.	d.
314,040	0	7½

10,645	0	5¾
--------	---	----

210	8	0¼
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Total amount of the revenue arising from the distillery in England,

324,895	9	1½
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Total amount of the revenue arising from the distillery in Scotland,

93,701	12	1¾
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Amount of the equalizing duty paid in England, —

8,000	0	0
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Amount of duty actually paid, — — — — —

426,597	1	3¼
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The difference in the stock on hand, on the 1st of November, 1784,
and the 1st of November, 1785, was 2,700 tons, at 30l. per ton; which
difference must be considered as part of the consumption of 1785,

51,000	0	0
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Total,

477,597	1	3¼
---------	---	----

An account of sugar and rum imported into England from March 25, to October 19, in
this year.

	<i>Ships.</i>		<i>Casks of Sugar.</i>		<i>Casks of Rum.</i>
Jamaica,	132	—	48,615	—	14,743
Antigua,	30	—	13,505	—	529
St. Kitt's,	30	—	14,220	—	628
Barbadoes,	18	—	7,275	—	133
Granades,	35	—	11,841	—	1,634
Montserrat,	5	—	2,159	—	58
Nevis,	8	—	3,974	—	116
Dominica,	9	—	3,601	—	14
St. Vincent,	10	—	4,273	—	251
Tortola,	5	—	2,110	—	24
Tobago,	6	—	699	—	54
Total,	288		112,272		18,184

An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and
Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1785.	<i>British</i>	<i>Foreign</i>
ENGLAND.	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
Wheat, —	65,213	6,312
Wheat Flour, —	59,564	116
Rye, —	12,492	397
Barley, —	58,427	108
Malt, —	91,042	—
Oats, —	13,120	1,605
Oat-meal, —	495	33
Beans, —	6,323	240
Peas, —	6,482	2,399

IMPORTED.

1785.	<i>Quarters.</i>
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	85,796
Wheat Flour, —	11,778
Rye, —	28,738
Barley, —	63,666
Oats, —	281,018
Oat-meal, —	4,431
Beans, —	9,355
Peas, —	6,736
Indian corn, —	15

EXPORTED.

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EXPORTED.

IMPORTED.

1785.	British	Foreign
SCOTLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	569	—
Wheat Flour, —	911	—
Bear, —	4,770	—
Rye, —	274	—
Barley, —	12,192	—
Oats, —	4,940	—
Oatmeal, —	5,080	—
Peas and Beans, —	460	—
Malt, —	4,678	—

1785.	Quarters.
SCOTLAND.	
Wheat, —	13,277
Wheat Flour, —	12
Rye, —	23
Barley, —	3,546
Oats, —	37,681
Oatmeal, —	50,958
Peas and Beans, —	722

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the course of this year, amounted to 22,465l. 17s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

The drawbacks, during the same period, were 207l. 1s. 6d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same time, was 3,848l. 8s. 10d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 6,249l. 15s. 6d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 1,119l. 1s. 8d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 5s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; rye, 3s. 6d.; barley, 3s.; oats, 2s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; beans, 3s. 10d.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	New Ann. 1777	Long Ann.	Short Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	South Sea Stock	S Sea Old Ann.	3 per ct. B. 1751	New Nav Bills	5 per Cent. Nav	3 per cent. Scrip	Exchequer Bills.
January,	116 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	52 $\frac{1}{8}$	6 d.	—	54 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	89 $\frac{1}{8}$	57 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 s.
February,	117 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 $\frac{1}{8}$	56 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	132 $\frac{1}{4}$	63 $\frac{7}{8}$	3	64	55 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	88 $\frac{1}{4}$	56 $\frac{1}{8}$	2
March,	116	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	133	—	5	64	55 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	16	88 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	1 par.
April,	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	131 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	3	—	—	—	16	92	—	3 s.
May,	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	18	12 $\frac{5}{8}$	133 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	5	—	—	—	10	93	—	—
June,	118 $\frac{1}{4}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{3}{4}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	—	56 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	92	—	6s. dif
July,	120 $\frac{1}{4}$	58 $\frac{1}{8}$	58 $\frac{3}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	17 $\frac{5}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	53 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	—	66 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	7 $\frac{5}{8}$	91 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	6s. dif
August,	123	57 $\frac{7}{8}$	56 $\frac{3}{4}$	74	—	17 $\frac{3}{8}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	132	—	1	—	56 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	6 $\frac{3}{8}$	89 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	3
Septemb.	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{4}$	58 $\frac{3}{8}$	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	18	13	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	19 p.	—	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	5	92 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	92 pre.
October,	129 $\frac{3}{4}$	65	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	20 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	27	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	59 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	96 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	12
Novemb.	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	70 $\frac{3}{4}$	88	—	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	42	—	64 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	24
Decemb.	142	72	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	156	66	45	—	67	68	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	12
	—	69	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	87 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	20 $\frac{1}{5}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	—	37	—	—	61	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	—	5

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IMPORTS and EXPORTS, from CHRISTMAS 1784, to CHRISTMAS 1785.

COUNTRIES.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.
Africa,	48,535 12 —	587,196 10 2
Canaries,	4,457 15 11	17,034 19 2
Denmark and Norway,	117,172 7 8	322,395 15 4
East Country,	483,485 15 8	97,783 15 5
East Indies,	2,703,940 14 1	1,153,532 14 9
Flanders,	222,368 17 2	1,173,906 18 5
France,	117,366 9 2	358,244 16 11
Germany,	559,177 19 —	1,402,284 11 11
Holland,	468,121 6 11	1,506,303 12 7
Ireland,	2,012,288 15 10	2,168,614 4 9
Isle of Man,	8,389 16 6	31,868 — 8
Italy,	687,155 12 —	513,171 6 10
Madeira,	2,880 — 2	44,978 11 8
Portugal,	428,064 19 11	798,204 19 —
Russia,	1,606,688 7 1	233,998 11 1
Spain,	697,712 14 9	788,064 2 6
Gibraltar,	2,616 9 11	86,207 13 10
Streights,	— — —	306,028 3 9
Sweden,	203,765 15 7	65,307 5 5
Turkey,	146,906 1 3	82,449 10 4
Venice,	69,194 12 4	20,294 18 7
Greenland,	74,523 8 11	2,609 4 9
Island of Alderney,	22 15 —	4,517 6 11
Island of Guernsey,	32,829 19 8	60,581 1 8
Island of Jersey,	15,649 1 11	29,150 14 11
Island of Sark,	81 9 5	54 — —
Canada,	111,451 13 —	267,384 14 9
Cape Breton,	— — —	— — —
Carolina,	228,070 15 10	310,198 3 7
Florida,	18,096 3 3	4,633 — 10
Georgia,	45,919 14 7	44,396 4 6
Hudson's Bay,	11,270 5 2	5,125 10 4
New England,	56,647 11 11	163,348 5 3
Newfoundland,	63,584 11 7	198,227 6 4
New York,	61,671 10 9	405,762 12 —
Nova Scotia,	7,084 9 10	207,345 9 8
Pennsylvania,	57,705 6 5	369,215 8 5
Island of St. John, Gulf of St. Laurence,	— — —	— — —
Virginia & Maryland,	443,580 6 2	1,015,102 8 3
Anguilla,	2,829 15 6	— — —
Antigua,	384,651 7 7	82,463 12 —
Bahamas,	14,150 8 1	33,235 5 4
Barbadoes,	249,959 4 8	151,654 — 10
Bermuda,	990 18 9	6,118 5 10
Dominica,	257,967 2 8	61,695 2 —
Grenada,	438,448 9 5	119,131 8 3
Honduras Bay,	29,153 16 5	1,647 15 6
Jamaica,	2,262,905 3 8	626,310 — 9
Montserrat,	44,055 6 5	6,629 15 2
Musquito Shore,	20,282 11 9	247 9 1
Nevis,	88,213 6 10	6,838 17 9
St. Croix,	— — —	— — —
St. Eustatius,	— — —	338 7 —
St. Kitt's,	318,618 10 8	67,753 4 6
St. Lucia,	18,572 19 3	— — —
St. Thomas's,	1,504 7 10	— — —
St. Vincent's,	157,144 5 1	54,432 18 3
Tobago,	40,773 16 5	313 3 8
Tortola,	85,876 1 7	18,406 8 —
Demerara,	— — —	— — —
St. Domingo,	— — —	— — —
Surinam,	— — —	1 15 —
St. Martin's,	— — —	— — —
Cape-Francois,	— — —	— — —
Havannah,	— — —	— — —
New Orleans,	727 10 —	1,583 — 3
Buenos Ayres,	— — —	— — —
Northern Fishery,	1,554 2 5	— — —
Southern Fishery,	8,483 12 11	2,403 9 10
Foreign coin and bullion,	— — —	652,560 13 6
Prize goods,	34,076 17 —	30,941 10 —
Total,	16,279,419 1 3	16,770,228 17 9

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1785 The following bills relative to trade and commerce received the royal assent in the course of this year :

A bill for confining, for a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majesty's subjects in the island of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, and live stock, to be imported in none but British built ships, actually belonging to British subjects, and navigated according to law, clearing out from the ports of his Majesty's European dominions, and furnished with a licence according to a form thereunto annexed.

Respecting the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and America.

To repeal the duties imposed last session on cotton stuffs, &c.

Respecting the importation of goods from Tobago.

To appoint commissioners to enquire into the fees, gratuities, perquisites, and emoluments which are, or have lately been, received in the several public offices therein-mentioned; to examine into any abuses which may exist in the same, and to report such observations as shall occur to them for the better conducting and managing the business transacted in the said offices.

To repeal so much of an act of the last session, as relates to the distillation, &c. of corn spirits in the Highlands of Scotland.

For funding the navy bills and ordnance debentures.

For preventing frauds in the wool manufactory in certain counties.

For transferring certain duties from the commissioners of excise and stamps to the commissioners of the taxes.

For the better securing the duties on coal, culm and cinders.

For better examining and auditing the public accounts.

For regulating insurances on ships, goods, &c.

For regulating the imprisonment of debtors under prosecution in the courts of conscience in London and the bills of mortality, and to abolish the fees paid by them to gaolers, &c.

Respecting the manufacture and importation of cordage for shipping.

Respecting the duties upon, and the importation of, Florence wine and oil; also respecting the exportation of wheat, &c. to our sugar colonies,—the drawback on the exportation of snuff,—the permission to land British plantation rum or spirits before payment of the excise duties,—the premiums upon the importation of pitch, &c. from East Florida,—the bounty upon the exportation of silk gauzes,—and the drawback upon the exportation of raw silk.

Respecting the duties imposed last session upon printed linens, &c. and for laying duties on printed cotton stuffs, muslins, fustians, velvets, and velverets.

For further postponing the payment of two millions to the Bank.

Respecting the laws relative to salt, rock salt, foul salt for manure, Glauber or Epsom salts, &c.

Respecting party walls, and for the more effectually preventing mischiefs by fire, and for extending the provisions of this act, so far as relates to manufactories of pitch, &c. throughout England.

For encouraging the pilchard fishery.

To authorize certain great officers of state to pay bounties granted by his Majesty to persons in low and indigent circumstances.

For the further encouragement of the British fisheries.

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1785 To prohibit the exportation to foreign parts of tools, &c. employed in our iron and steel manufactories, and to prevent the seducing the workmen to go abroad.

To prohibit, for a limited time, the exportation of hay.

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy, — — — —	2,551,307	17	2
For the army, — — — —	2,286,263	9	0 $\frac{5}{8}$
For the ordnance, — — — —	392,855	15	5
Miscellaneous services, — — — —	2,857,160	0	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Deficiencies, — — — —	1,208,713	13	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Total Supplies,	9,296,300	15	10 $\frac{5}{8}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt, — — — —	2,750,000	0	0
Exchequer bills, — — — —	2,500,000	0	0
To be applied out of the sinking fund, — — — —	702,539	16	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
The amount of stoppages, respites, and other monies, remaining in the hands of the Paymaster General, &c. — — — —	231,578	18	2
By further Exchequer bills, — — — —	1,000,000	0	0
Overplus of grants for the year 1784, — — — —	66,161	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Further application out of the sinking fund, — — — —	2,297,460	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lottery, — — — —	150,000	0	0
Remaining in the Exchequer for the disposal of Parliament, — — — —	238,928	16	3
Total of Ways and Means, — — — —	9,936,668	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total amount of Supplies granted, — — — —	9,296,300	15	10 $\frac{5}{8}$
Excess of Ways and Means, — — — —	640,368	1	11 $\frac{7}{8}$

The charge of the pay and cloathing of the militia for this year, was voted to be paid out of the produce of the land tax,

The navy, victualling, and transport bills, dated on or before the 30th of June, 1783, with the interest due thereon to the 5th of July 1785, were in this year funded at the rate of 111l. 8s. stock, bearing 5 per cent. interest for every 100l. arising from the principal and interest of the said bills: and navy, &c. bills made out between the 30th of June, 1783, and the 1st of January, 1785, with the interest due thereon, were funded on the like terms, except that from these was deducted a sum at the rate of 5s. per cent. on the amount of the principal and interest of every month between the 1st day of July, 1783, and the day on which such bills were made out. The stock so created is irredeemable, until 25,000,000 of the public debt, either of 3 or 4 per cent. annuities shall be redeemed or paid off. Ordnance debentures, dated on or before the 31st of December, 1783, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, from the expiration of fifteen months from their date, were likewise funded, at the rate of 111l. 8s. stock, bearing 5 per cent. interest for every 100l. and irredeemable in like manner as the navy bills. The interest of the navy and ordnance debt thus funded, with

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1785 with some other services amounting to 413,000*l.* were to be provided by the following taxes:—

NEW TAXES.				£.	s.	d.
Male servants, calculated to produce	—	—	—	35,000	0	0
Female servants, ditto,	—	—	—	140,000	0	0
Shops, ditto,	—	—	—	100,000	0	0
Attornies, ditto,	—	—	—	20,000	0	0
Post-horses, ditto,	—	—	—	50,000	0	0
Gloves, ditto,	—	—	—	50,000	0	0
Pawnbrokers, ditto,	—	—	—	15,000	0	0
Salt, by a new regulation, ditto,	—	—	—	12,000	0	0
Total of new taxes,	—	—	—	422,000	0	0

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	9,085	Buried, males	9,447
— females	8,834	— females	9,472
	<u>17,919</u>		<u>18,919</u>

1786 The commencement of the session of Parliament in this year took place on the 24th of January, which was opened, as usual, by a speech from the throne; in which his Majesty, after having mentioned the amicable conclusion to which the disputes that threatened an interruption to the tranquillity of Europe had been brought, the friendly disposition of foreign powers towards this country, the extension of trade, the improvement of the revenue, and the increase of public credit, informed his Parliament that the resolutions which they had laid before him, as the basis of an adjustment of the commercial intercourse between Great Britain and Ireland, had been, by his direction, recommended to the Parliament of that kingdom, but that no effectual step had hitherto been taken thereupon, which could enable them to make any further progress in that salutary work. He afterwards called the attention of the House of Commons to the establishment of a fixed plan for the reduction of the national debt; a measure which, he trusted, the flourishing state of the revenue would be sufficient to effect, with little addition to the public burthens. He concluded with saying, that the vigour and resources of the country, so fully manifested in its present situation, would encourage his Parliament to give their utmost attention to every object of national concern, particularly to the consideration of such measures as might be necessary in order to give further security to the revenue, and to promote and extend, as far as possible, the trade and general industry of his subjects.

The minister had, very early in this session, taken notice of that part of his Majesty's speech which related to the necessity of providing for the diminution of the national debt: he had, at the same time, given the House to understand, that such was the present flourishing condition of the revenue, that the annual national income would not only equal the annual public disbursements, but would leave a very considerable surplus; this surplus he proposed to form into a permanent fund, to be constantly and invariably applied to the liquidation of the public debt.

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debt. In pursuance of this information to the House, and in order to ascertain the amount of the surplus in question, Mr. Pitt, previous to his entering into the state of the finances, or ways and means for the present year, moved, "That the several accounts, and other papers presented that session relating to the public income and expenditure, be referred to the consideration of a select committee, and that the said committee be directed to examine and report to the House what might be expected to be the annual amount of the income and expenditure in future."

This motion was unanimously agreed to; and the select committee having framed their report, laid it before the House on the 21st of March. The Chancellor of the Exchequer on the 29th, brought the consideration of the national debt, and his proposition for the diminution of it, together with the supplies and ways and means, formally before the House. The committee prefaced their report with observing, "That having proceeded to the consideration of the matters referred to them by the House, they had arranged several papers relating thereto, under distinct heads, containing the different articles of the public income and expenditure."

"That before they entered on the first part of their report, they thought it necessary to premise, that they had confined their examination to the present state of the revenue, as it appeared either from the amount actually received in the periods mentioned in the papers referred to them, or from the best estimates which they could form of the produce of such articles as had not been brought to account in those periods, but compose, nevertheless, a part of the present income of the public. The large amount of the taxes imposed since the commencement of the late war, in addition to the then subsisting revenue, the difficulties under which the different branches of our commerce laboured during the continuance of that war, and the great encreasing prevalence of smuggling previous to the measures which had been recently adopted for its suppression, appeared to them to render any averages of the amount of the revenue in former periods, in a great degree, inapplicable to the present situation of the country; nor did they think themselves competent to the discussion of the various contingencies which might in future operate to the increase or diminution of the public income: a revenue so complicated in its nature, and depending so much on the various branches of an extensive commerce, must always be liable to temporary fluctuations, even although no circumstances should arise to occasion any permanent alteration in its produce; that they had therefore judged it proper to submit to the wisdom of the House such an extensive consideration, and to state in their report the present amount of the public income, as resulting from the papers before them."

After making all the necessary deductions, the several articles of the public receipt and expenditure, from Michaelmas 1784 to Michaelmas 1785, and from January 1785 to January 1786, stood in the report as follows:—

<i>R E C E I P T.</i>	<i>From Mich. 1784,</i>	<i>From Jan. 5, 1785,</i>
	<i>to Mich. 1785.</i>	<i>to Jan. 5, 1786.</i>
Total net payments into the Exchequer, after deducting the respited duties paid by the East India Company, and the excess of the future amount of window duties,	£.	£.
	11,874,213	12,042,697
Further produce of window duty imposed by 25th Geo. II.	380,056	253,534
Further produce of duty on two and four-wheel carriages,	59,281	107,186
To complete the former duty on male servants, —	26,803	42,444
Carried forward,	12,340,353	12,445,861

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	Brought over,	£. 12,340,353	£. 12,445,861
Further produce of duties on horses, waggons, and carts,		56,829	73,610
Further produce of taxes in 1784,	—	103,000	22,000
Further produce of taxes imposed in 1785, including the improvement of the medicine duty,	—	265,000	242,000
Paid at the excise and alienation office, in part of civil list,		14,000	14,000
Produce of the land and malt taxes,	— —	2,600,000	2,600,000
	Totals of Receipt,	£. 15,379,182	£. 15,397,471

EXPENDITURE.

Interest and charges of the public debts,	£. 9,275,769	
Exchequer bills,	258,000	
Civil list,	900,000	
Charges on aggregate fund,	64,600	
Navy,	1,800,000	
Ordnance,	348,000	
Army,	1,600,000	
Militia,	91,000	
Miscellaneous services,	74,274	
Appropriated duties,	66,538	
	Totals of Expenditure,	£. 14,478,181
	Annual Surplus,	£. 901,001
		£. 919,290

This account of the public receipts for two years, may, at this time, be considered as the annual income of this country, and upon the true statement of which there is every reason to rely. There is a small difference in the two statements of about 20,000*l.* in the two terms; which, however, can be of no consequence to the general object for which they were made.—In short, from the report of the committee, the regulations that have been made to crush clandestine trade, and other measures in agitation to repress the frauds on the revenue, it might be said, with truth, that the nation possessed an increasing annual income of 15,000,000*l.* and upwards, which might be confidently relied on as possessing a fund for an annual diminution of the national debt.

As to the annual expenditure of the nation, which the committee stated to amount to upwards of 14,000,000*l.* there is great part of the particular items of which this sum is made up, that the committee omitted to mention, because the sums charged have been previously stated by act of Parliament. These they consider as permanent expences, and, therefore, distinguish them from what is fluctuating. In the former description they include the interest of the national debt, the Exchequer bills, civil list, charges on the aggregate fund, and the appropriated duties, the whole of which division amounts to 10,564,000*l.* and upwards.

The other class of expences includes the different establishments for the defence of the nation,—as the army, the navy, the ordnance, and the militia, &c.—There may be extraordinary charges for these purposes; but in the present estimate, the committee stated the expence only that must be occasioned by a peace establishment, which they have done on a very enlarged and liberal scale.

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1786 They allow for the navy, during peace, 18,000 men, which is beyond former peace establishments, and for this they set apart the sum of 1,800,000*l.* It must be observed, however, that the committee do not state what ought to be the expence of our navy, but only what, after the deduction of all other expences, would remain as a surplus; it was accordingly their business to state every thing on the largest possible footing. They have taken the army upon the same mode of reasoning, and allow for the charge of it 1,600,000*l.* The ordnance also is stated largely, though it will not, probably, suffer any deduction; as it was found that we were very deficient in that branch of warlike preparation at the beginning of the last war; it would, therefore, be extremely imprudent to run a similar risk in future.

The miscellaneous services are stated upon a liberal average of several preceding years. They have arisen chiefly from addresses of Parliament to the King for particular grants, and also from the establishments of our colonies abroad, and from bills of exchange drawn by their governors upon the Treasury: these services are stated at 74,000*l.*—Deducting, therefore, the whole expenditure from the annual income, there remains a surplus of 900,000*l.*

Such is the sum which remained to be applied to the purpose of decreasing the national debt; but as the fund for that end was proposed to be a million annually, the minister mentioned his design of moving for certain taxes to make up the deficiency.

But though the amount of the expenditure, as stated in the report, with respect to the navy, army, and ordnance, was large and ample, as calculated for times of peace, and as they were to stand in future, yet it fell infinitely short of what was the actual expenditure for those establishments for the present year, or what would be so for two or three years to come. The effects of the late expensive war would be naturally felt for some time longer, and the necessary claims it had left on the public purse, were such as must meet with a compliance. Thus, for instance, the naval half-pay and pension lists were unavoidably much increased, and a number of ships which were now on the stocks, were to be completed; so that the allowance for the navy, which, according to the report, was no more than 1,800,000*l.* amounts, in the present year, to 2,400,000*l.* In the same manner, the exceedings of the army, arising from the same enormous increase of the half-pay and pension lists, amounted to 260,000*l.* over and above the sum allowed for that service in the report. These exceedings, however, from their very nature, would gradually diminish, and, in time, be reduced to nothing. Supposing them, therefore, to last four years, such were the extraordinary resources of this country, that an adequate provision could be found, without laying any fresh burthens on the people. The surplusses of the several funds, and the army savings,—the arrears still due from paymasters,—a lottery, if necessary,—balance due from the East India Company for the subsistence of troops in India, and of victualling the navy,—the unclaimed dividends in the funds,—the sale of crown lands,—the increase of the customs, arising from the suppression of smuggling,—other regulations at this time in agitation relative to the revenues,—and a plan under consideration for the consolidation of the customs, formed a mass of resources fully equal to the exceedings of our establishments already mentioned, if not more than sufficient to discharge them.

For the purpose of ensuring the due application of this sinking fund of 1,000,000*l.* per annum to its destined object, it was proposed to vest in a certain number of commissioners the full power of disposing of it in the purchase of stock for the public in their own names: the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Master of the Rolls, the Governor and Deputy-governor of the Bank of England, and the Accountant-general of the High Court of Chancery, were proposed as the commissioners, who should receive the annual

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1786 nual million by quarterly payments of 250,000*l.* to be issued out of the Exchequer, before any other money, except the interest of the national debt. By these provisions, the fund would be secured, and no deficiencies in the national revenues could affect it, as all such were intended to be separately provided for by Parliament. According to these calculations it appears, that the accumulated compound interest on a million yearly, together with the annuities that will fall into that fund, will, in 28 years, amount to such a sum as will leave a surplus of four millions annually, to be applied, if necessary, to the exigencies of the state.

From the reasonings and statements employed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this important occasion, it was evident, first, that the yearly income of the state exceeded the permanent level of its expenditure, by a sum of 900,000*l.*; secondly, that this sum would be increased to 1,000,000*l.* by means in no wise burthensome to the people; thirdly, that although the present establishment exceeded, in certain instances, the same establishments as stated in the report of the select committee, yet there were ample resources and contingent and outstanding receipts sufficient to overbalance such excesses, without having recourse to any fresh taxes; and, lastly, that the ways and means for the present year would be sufficient to furnish the supplies, together with the sum of 250,000*l.* to be applied quarterly towards the establishment of the new fund; and, after all, would leave a considerable balance to be carried to the next year. On these grounds, Mr. Pitt moved, "That the sum of 1,000,000*l.* be annually granted to certain commissioners, to be by them applied to the purchase of stocks, towards discharging the public debt of this country; which money shall arise out of the surplusses, excesses, and overplus monies composing the fund commonly called the sinking fund."—The policy of making the income of the state so far exceed its expenditure as to leave a considerable surplus towards the liquidation of the public debt, was universally acknowledged; and the motion was accordingly carried in the affirmative without a division.

Some objections were however made, on the part of opposition, to the proposed plan, respecting the mode of accomplishing it, and the fallacy of the calculations; but these objections were over-ruled, and the bill at length received the royal assent, and promises to answer, to the utmost extent, the patriotic design of the minister who proposed it.

As it was a very principal object of the measures of the present session to extend and secure to Great Britain the blessings of peace, the melioration of her revenues, and the improvement of her commerce, we shall just mention such as were intended to promote these great views, and particularly to give strength and permanence to our commerce.

The first of them consisted of a bill, which was brought forward by Mr. Charles Jenkinson, since created Lord Hawkesbury, for the further increase and encouragement of our shipping and navigation, and to prevent the frauds by which former regulations were supposed to have been evaded. It is well known that the navigation laws of Great Britain are in direct opposition to the abstract and philosophical ideas that have been entertained in behalf of free trade; and it is not less notorious that they are an object of extreme attachment, and a source of high popularity among the subjects of the British realm; and in order to strengthen their operations, this bill enacts, that, in future, no ships should be deemed British-built that were not actually built in Great Britain or her dominions: it also extended and regulated the mode of register upon that subject, as well as raised to an higher amount what was called the alien's duty, imposing it on the Americans, who were very justly considered as no longer entitled to an exemption from it.

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Several other measures, founded upon that system of monopoly and national preference which form the spirit of the navigation laws, were brought forward in this session by the same gentleman. The acts of Parliament by which bounties were given to the fisheries of Newfoundland, Greenland, and the South Sea, being on the point of expiring, it was intended, with some variation, to perpetuate these measures. In moving for the bill for increasing the fishery of Newfoundland, Mr. Jenkinson explained to the House of Commons the principle upon which that fishery ought to be conducted. It was essential to preserve it entirely a British fishery; and this could be only done by confining it to British ships, navigated from Great Britain, and by preventing any permanent settlement from being made on the island of Newfoundland. The obvious consequence of such a settlement would be, as it happened in New England, that the colony would take the fishery into its own hands, and they would thereby be ultimately and perpetually lost to this country. He suggested various provisions to remedy this inconvenience, and particularly that the stages, curing houses, &c. on the island should be no longer the property of those who might have erected them than while they employ them in the business of the fishery; and that, if left, they should become liable to be occupied by those who arrived first at the time of the ensuing season.

With respect to the Greenland fishery, the design of Mr. Jenkinson was to reduce the bounty from 40s. which was then given, to 30s. He stated, that the sums which this country had paid in bounties for the Greenland fishery amounted to 1,265,461l.; that, in the last year, we had paid 94,858l.; and that, from the consequent reduction of the price of the fish, the public, at present, paid 60 per cent. upon every cargo. In the Greenland fishery there were employed 6,000 seamen, and these seamen cost government 13l. 10s. per man per annum, though we were never able to obtain more than 500 of that number to serve on board our ships of war. Besides, the vast encouragement given to the trade had occasioned such a glut in the market, that it was found necessary to export considerable quantities; and thus we paid a large share of the purchase-money for foreign nations, as well as for our own people, besides supplying them with the materials of several important manufactures. This proposition was opposed by several respectable members of Parliament, but was finally carried.

The affairs of the East India Company engrossed no inconsiderable attention in the course of the present session, and several bills were passed for the further government of the British territories and regulation of affairs in the East Indies.

A considerable portion of the latter part of this session was also given to the production of charges against Warren Hastings, Esq. late governor-general of Bengal, and to the hearing of his defence. Two of these charges were regularly debated; the one concerning his conduct in the Rohilla war, in which he was acquitted of criminality; and the other respecting the deposition of the Rajah of Benares, which was declared to contain matter of impeachment against him. The succeeding charges were postponed to another session.

On the 11th of July, his Majesty put an end to this session by a speech from the throne; in which he observed, that he could not dismiss his Parliament without expressing the particular satisfaction with which he had observed their diligent attention to the public business, and the measures they had adopted for improving the resources of the country. After thanking the House of Commons for the provision they had made for discharging the incumbrances of the civil list, and mentioning the plan for the reduction of the national debt in terms of high approbation, he added, that the happy effects of peace had already appeared in the extension
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1786 of the national commerce, and that no measure should be wanting, on his part, which could tend to confirm these advantages, and to give additional encouragement to the manufactures and industry of his people.

On the 7th of May, a treaty of alliance and commerce, which had been signed the preceding year by the plenipotentiaries of the King of Prussia and the United States of America, at the courts of the Hague, London, and Paris, was ratified, in due form, by the American Congress. This treaty is to be in force for ten years from the exchange of ratifications.

On the 24th of July, a convention was signed at London between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Spain; the object of which is, the settlements, boundaries, and trade of the Musquito coasts, &c. The principal articles are as follow:—

“ Article I. His Britannic Majesty’s subjects, and the other colonists who have hitherto enjoyed the protection of England, shall evacuate the country of the Musquitos, as well as the continent in general, and the islands adjacent, without exception, situated beyond the line described in the second article, as what ought to be the frontier of the extent of territory granted by his Catholic Majesty to the English, for the uses specified in the third article of the present convention, and in addition to the country already granted them in virtue of the stipulations agreed upon by the commissioners of the two crowns in 1783.

“ II. It is agreed that the English line, beginning from the sea, shall take the centre of the river Sibun or Jabon, and continue up to the source of the said river; from thence it shall cross, in a straight line, the intermediate land, till it intersects the river Wallis; and by the centre of the same river the said line shall descend to the point where it will meet the line already settled and marked out by the commissaries of the two crowns in 1783; which limits, following the continuation of the said line, shall be observed as formerly stipulated by the definitive treaty.

“ III. British subjects are permitted to cut all other wood, as well as logwood, not excepting mahogany; and to gather and carry away the fruits and produce of the earth in their natural and uncultivated state; and also to use saw-mills for cutting or otherwise preparing the wood.

“ IV. and V. The English are permitted to occupy the small island known by the names of Cassina, St. George’s Key, or Cayo Cassina, in consideration of the circumstance of that part of the coasts opposite to the said island being looked upon as subject to dangerous disorders. They are also allowed the liberty of refitting their merchant ships in the southern triangle included between the point Cayo Cassina and the cluster of small islands which are situated opposite to that part of the coast occupied by the cutters, at the distance of eight leagues from the river Wallis, seven from Cayo Cassina, and three from the river Sibun, a place which has been always found to be well adapted to that purpose. But no fortifications or military works are to be constructed in these places, nor any ships of war to be stationed there.

“ VI. The English are allowed to fish on the coast of the country assigned to them by the last treaty of peace, as also of that which is added to them by the present convention, &c.

“ VIII. It is agreed, that, if in course of time, the English should be in want of dying-wood or mahogany, with which the Spanish possessions might be provided, the Spanish government shall make no difficulty to furnish a supply to the English at a fair and reasonable price.

The other articles contain several subordinate regulations concerning formalities, &c. between the officers and subjects of the two powers.

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On the 26th of September, the following treaty of commerce and navigation between his Britannic Majesty and the Most Christian King, was signed at Versailles. The novelty as well as importance of this treaty, and the advantages it promises to the dominions of Great Britain, induces us to insert it in all its form and extent.

TREATY of COMMERCE and NAVIGATION between his Britannic Majesty and the Most Christian King, signed at Versailles, the 26th of September, 1786; as published by authority.

“ His Britannic Majesty, and his Most Christian Majesty, being equally animated with the desire not only of consolidating the good harmony which actually subsists between them, but also of extending the happy effects thereof to their respective subjects, have thought that the most efficacious means for attaining those objects, conformably to the 18th article of the treaty of peace, signed the 6th of September, 1783, would be to adopt a system of commerce on the basis of reciprocity and mutual convenience; which, by discontinuing the prohibitions and prohibitory duties which have existed for almost a century between the two nations, might procure the most solid advantages, on both sides, to the national productions and industry, and put an end to contraband trade, no less injurious to the public revenue than to that lawful commerce which is alone entitled to protection: for this end, their said Majesties have named for their commissaries and plenipotentiaries, to wit, the King of Great Britain, William Eden, Esq. privy counsellor in Great Britain and Ireland, member of the British Parliament, and his envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to his Most Christian Majesty; and the Most Christian King, the Sieur Joseph Mathias Gerard de Rayneval, knight, counsellor of state, knight of the royal order of Charles III.; who, after having exchanged their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:—

“ Article I. It is agreed and concluded between the Most Serene and Most Potent King of Great Britain, and the Most Serene and Most Potent the Most Christian King, that there shall be a reciprocal and entirely perfect liberty of navigation and commerce between the subjects of each party, in all and every the kingdoms, states, provinces, and territories subject to their Majesties in Europe, for all and singular kinds of goods, in those places, upon the conditions, and in such manner and form as is settled and adjusted in the following articles.

“ II. For the future security of commerce and friendship between the subjects of their said Majesties, and to the end that this good correspondence may be preserved from all interruption and disturbance, it is concluded and agreed, that if, at any time, there should arise any misunderstanding, breach of friendship, or rupture between the crowns of their Majesties, which God forbid! (which rupture shall not be deemed to exist until the recalling or sending home of the respective ambassadors or ministers) the subjects of each of the two parties residing in the dominions of the other, shall have the privilege of remaining and continuing their trade therein, without any manner of disturbance, so long as they behave peaceably, and commit no offence against the laws and ordinances; and in case their conduct should render them suspected, and the respective governments should be obliged to order them to remove, the term of twelve months shall be allowed them for that purpose, in order that they may remove, with their effects and property, whether entrusted to individuals or to the state. At the same time it is to be understood, that this favour is not to be extended to those who shall act contrary to the established laws.

“ III. It is likewise agreed and concluded, that the subjects and inhabitants of the kingdoms, provinces, and dominions of their Majesties, shall exercise no acts of hostility or violence against each other, either by sea or by land, or in rivers, streams, ports, or havens,

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1786 under any colour or pretence whatsoever; so that the subjects of either party shall receive no patent, commission, or instruction for arming and acting at sea as privateers, nor letters of reprisal, as they are called, from any princes or states, enemies to the other party; nor by virtue, or under colour of such patents, commissions, or reprisals, shall they disturb, infest, or any way prejudice or damage the aforesaid subjects and inhabitants of the King of Great Britain, or of the Most Christian King; neither shall they arm ships in such manner as is above said, or go out to sea therewith. To which end, as often as it is required by either party, strict and express prohibitions shall be renewed and published in all the territories, countries, and dominions of each party wheresoever, that no one shall in any wise use such commissions or letters of reprisal, under the severest punishment that can be inflicted on the transgressors, besides being liable to make full restitution and satisfaction to those to whom they have done any damage; neither shall any letters of reprisal be hereafter granted by either of the high contracting parties to the prejudice or detriment of the other, except only in such case wherein justice is denied or delayed; which denial or delay of justice shall not be regarded as verified, unless the petitions of the person who desires the said letters of reprisal, shall be communicated to the minister residing there on the part of the Prince against whose subjects they are to be granted; that within the space of four months, or sooner, if possible, he may manifest the contrary, or procure the satisfaction which may be justly due.

“ IV. The subjects and inhabitants of the respective dominions of the two Sovereigns shall have liberty, freely and securely, without licence or passport, general or special, by land or by sea, or any other way, to enter into the kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries, islands, cities, villages, towns, walled or unwalled, fortified or unfortified, ports, or territories whatsoever, of either Sovereigns, situated in Europe, and to return from thence, remain there, or to pass through the same, and therein to buy and purchase, as they please, all things necessary for their subsistence and use, and they shall mutually be treated with all kindness and favour:— Provided, however, that in all these matters, they behave and conduct themselves conformably to the laws and statutes, and live with each other in a friendly and peaceable manner, and promote reciprocal concord, by maintaining a mutual good understanding.

“ V. The subjects of each of their said Majesties may have leave and licence to come with their ships, as also with the merchandizes and goods on board the same, the trade and importation whereof are not prohibited by the laws of either kingdoms, and to enter into the countries, dominions, cities, ports, places, and rivers of either party, situated in Europe, to resort thereto, and to remain and reside there, without any limitation or time; also to hire houses, or to lodge with other persons, and to buy all lawful kinds of merchandizes, where they think fit, either from the first maker or the seller, or in any other manner, whether in the public market for the sale of merchandizes, or in fairs, or wherever such merchandizes are manufactured or sold. They may likewise deposit and keep in their magazines and warehouses the merchandizes brought from other parts, and afterwards expose the same to sale, without being in any wise obliged, unless willingly and of their own accord, to bring the said merchandizes to the marts and fairs. Neither are they to be burthened with any impositions or duties on account of the said freedom of trade, or for any other cause whatsoever, except those which are to be paid for their ships and merchandizes, conformably to the regulations of the present treaty, or those to which the subjects of the two contracting parties shall themselves be liable. And they shall have free leave to remove themselves, as also their wives, children, and servants, together with

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with their merchandizes, property, goods, or effects, whether bought or imported, wherever they shall think fit, out of either kingdom, by land and by sea, on the rivers and fresh waters, after discharging the usual duties; any law, privilege, grant, immunities, or customs, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In matters of religion, the subjects of the two crowns shall enjoy perfect liberty:—they shall not be compelled to attend divine service, whether in the churches or elsewhere; but, on the contrary, they shall be permitted, without molestation, to perform the exercises of their religion privately, in their own houses, and in their own way. Liberty shall not be refused to bury the subjects of either kingdom who die in the territories of the other, in convenient places to be appointed for that purpose; nor shall the funerals or sepulchres of the deceased be in any wise disturbed. The laws and statutes of each kingdom shall remain in full force and vigour, and shall be duly put in execution, whether they relate to commerce and navigation, or to any other right, those cases only excepted, concerning which it is otherwise determined in the articles of this present treaty.

“ VI. The two high contracting parties have thought proper to settle the duties on certain goods and merchandizes, in order to fix invariably the footing on which the trade therein shall be established between the two nations: in consequence of which, they have agreed upon the following tariff, viz.

“ 1st. The wines of France, imported directly from France into Great Britain, shall, in no case, pay any higher duties than those which the wines of Portugal now pay.

“ The wines of France, imported directly from France into Ireland, shall pay no higher duties than those which they now pay.

“ 2d. The vinegars of France, instead of sixty-seven pounds five shillings and three-pence and twelve-twentieths of a penny sterling, per ton, which they now pay, shall not, for the future, pay in Great Britain, any higher duties than thirty-two pounds eighteen shillings and ten-pence, and sixteen-twentieths of a penny sterling per ton.

“ 3d. The brandies of France, instead of nine shillings and six-pence and twelve-twentieths of a penny sterling, shall, for the future, pay in Great Britain, only seven shillings sterling per gallon, making four quarts, English measure.

“ 4th. Oil of olives, coming directly from France, shall, for the future, pay no higher duties than are now paid for the same from the most favoured nations.

“ 5th. Beer shall pay reciprocally a duty of thirty per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 6th. The duties on hardware, cutlery, cabinet-ware, turnery, and also all works, both heavy and light, of iron, steel, copper, and brass, shall be classed; and the highest duty shall not exceed ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 7th. All sorts of cottons manufactured in the dominions of the two sovereigns in Europe, and also woollens, whether knit or wove, including hosiery, shall pay, in both countries, an import duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*; all manufactures of cotton or wool, mixed with silk excepted, which shall remain prohibited on both sides.

“ 8th. Cambrics and lawns shall pay, in both countries, an import duty of 5s. or six livres Tournois, per demi piece of $7\frac{3}{4}$ yards, English measure; and linens, made of flax or hemp, manufactured in the dominions of the two sovereigns in Europe, shall pay no higher duties, either in Great Britain or France, than linens manufactured in Holland or Flanders, imported into Great Britain, now pay.

“ And linen made of flax or hemp, manufactured in Ireland or France, shall reciprocally pay no higher duties, than linens manufactured in Holland, imported into Ireland, now pay.

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“ 9th. Sadlery shall reciprocally pay an import duty of 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 10th. Gauzes of all sorts shall reciprocally pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 11th. Millinery made up of muslin, lawn, cambric, or gauze of every kind, or of any other article admitted under the present tariff, shall pay reciprocally a duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*: and if any articles shall be used therein, which are not specified in the tariff, they shall pay no higher duties than those paid for the same articles by the most favoured nations.

“ 12th. Porcelain, earthen-ware, and pottery, shall pay reciprocally twelve per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ 13th. Plate-glass and glass-ware in general shall be admitted, on each side, paying a duty of 12 per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ His Britannic Majesty reserves the right of countervailing, by additional duties on the under-mentioned merchandizes, the internal duties actually imposed upon the manufactures, or the import duties which are charged on the raw materials; namely, on all linens or cottons, stained or printed, on beer, glass ware, plate glass, and iron.

“ And his most Christian Majesty also reserves the right of doing the same, with regard to the following merchandizes; namely, cottons, iron, and beer.

“ And for the better securing the due collection of the duties payable *ad valorem*, which are specified in the above tariff, the said contracting parties will concert with each other as well the form of the declarations to be made, as also the proper means of preventing fraud with respect to the real value of the said goods and merchandizes.

“ But if it shall hereafter appear that any mistakes have inadvertently been made in the above tariff, contrary to the principles, on which it is founded, the two sovereigns will concert with good faith upon the means of rectifying them.

“ VII. The duties above specified are not to be altered but by mutual consent; and the merchandizes not above specified shall pay, in the dominions of the two sovereigns, the import and export duties payable in each of the said dominions by the most favoured European nations, at the time the present treaty bears date; and the ships belonging to the subjects of the said dominions shall also respectively enjoy therein all the privileges and advantages which are granted to those of the most favoured European nations.

“ And it being the intention of the two high contracting parties, that their respective subjects should be in the dominions of each other, upon a footing as advantageous as those of other European nations, they agree that, in case they shall hereafter grant any additional advantages in navigation or trade to any other European nation, they will reciprocally allow their said subjects to participate therein; without prejudice, however, to the advantages which they reserve, viz. France in favour of Spain, in consequence of the 24th article of the family compact, signed the 10th of May, 1761, and England according to what she has practised in conformity to, and in consequence of the convention of 1703, between England and Portugal.

“ And to the end that every person may know, with certainty, the state of the aforesaid imposts, customs, import and export duties, whatever they may be, it is agreed that tariffs, indicating the imposts, customs, and established duties, shall be affixed in public places, as well in Rouen and the other trading cities of France, as in London and the other trading cities under the dominion of the King of Great Britain, that recourse may be had to them whenever any difference shall arise concerning such imposts, customs, and duties, which shall not be levied, otherwise than in conformity to what is clearly expressed in the said tariffs, and according to their natural construction: and if any officer, or other person in his name, shall,

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1786 under any pretence, publicly or privately, directly, or indirectly, demand or take of a merchant, or of any other person, any sum of money, or any thing else, on account of duties, impost, search, or compensation, although it be under the name of a free gift, or under any other pretence, more or otherwise than what is above prescribed; in such case the said officer, or his deputy, if he be accused and convicted of the same before a competent judge, in the place where the crime was committed, shall give full satisfaction to the injured party, and shall likewise suffer the penalty prescribed by the laws.

“ VIII. No merchandizes exported from the countries respectively under the dominion of their Majesties, shall hereafter be subject to be inspected or confiscated, under any pretence of fraud or defect in making or working them, or of any other imperfection whatsoever; but absolute freedom shall be allowed to the buyer and seller to bargain and fix the price for the same, as they shall see good; any law, statute, edict, proclamation, privilege, grant, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

“ IX. Whereas several kinds of merchandizes, which are usually contained in casks, chests, or other cases, and for which the duties are paid by weight, will be exported from and imported into France by British subjects; it is agreed that, in such case, the aforesaid duties shall be demanded only according to the real weight of the merchandizes; and the weight of the casks, chests, and other cases whatever, shall be deducted, in the same manner as has been, and is now practised in England.

“ X. It is further agreed, that if any mistake or error shall be committed by any master of a ship, his interpreter or factor, or by others employed by him, in making the entry or declaration of her cargo, neither the ship nor the cargo shall be subject for such defect, to confiscation; but it shall be lawful for the proprietors to take back again such goods as were omitted in the entry or declaration of the master of the ship, paying only the accustomed duties according to the placart, provided always that there be no manifest appearance of fraud. Neither shall the merchants, or the masters of ships, or the merchandize, be subject to any penalty by reason of such omission, in case the goods omitted in the declaration shall not have been landed before the declaration has been made.

“ XI. In case either of the two high contracting parties shall think proper to establish prohibitions, or to augment the import duties upon any goods or merchandize of the growth or manufacture of the other, which are not specified in the tariff, such prohibitions or augmentations shall be general, and shall comprehend the like goods and merchandizes of the other most favoured European nations, as well as those of either state; and in case either of the two contracting parties shall revoke the prohibitions, or diminish the duties, in favour of any other European nation, upon any goods or merchandize of its growth or manufacture, whether on importation or exportation, such revocations or diminutions shall be extended to the subjects of the other party, on condition that the latter shall grant to the subjects of the former the importation and exportation of the like goods and merchandizes under the same duties; the cases reserved in the 7th article of the present treaty always excepted.

“ XII. And forasmuch as a certain usage, not authorized by any law, has formerly obtained in divers parts of Great Britain and France, by which French subjects have paid in England a kind of capitation tax, called in the language of that country head-money; and English subjects a like duty in France, called *Argent du Chef*; it is agreed, that the said impost shall not be demanded for the future, on either side, neither under the antient name, nor under any other name whatsoever.

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“ XIII. If either of the high contracting parties has granted, or shall grant, any bounties for encouraging the exportation of any articles, being of the growth, produce, or manufacture of his dominions, the other party shall be allowed to add to the duties already imposed, by virtue of the present treaty, on the said goods and merchandizes, imported into his dominions, such an import duty as shall be equivalent to the said bounty. But this stipulation is not to extend to the cases of restitutions of duties and imposts, (called drawbacks) which are allowed upon exportation.

“ XIV. The advantages granted by the present treaty to the subjects of his Britannic Majesty shall take effect, as far as relates to the kingdom of Great Britain, as soon as laws shall be passed there, for securing to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty the reciprocal enjoyment of the advantages which are granted to them by the present treaty.

“ And the advantages granted by all these articles, except the tariff, shall take effect, with regard to the kingdom of Ireland, as soon as laws shall be passed there, for securing to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty the reciprocal enjoyment of the advantages which are granted to them by this treaty; and, in like manner, the advantages granted by the tariff shall take effect, in what relates to the said kingdom, as soon as laws shall be passed there for giving effect to the said tariff.

“ XV. It is agreed, that ships belonging to his Britannic Majesty's subjects, arriving in the dominions of his Most Christian Majesty from the ports of Great Britain or Ireland, or from any other foreign port, shall not pay freight duty, or any other like duty. In the same manner, French ships shall be exempted, in the dominions of his Britannic Majesty, from the duty of 5s. and from every other similar duty or charge.

“ XVI. It shall not be lawful for any foreign privateers, not being subjects of either crown, who have commissions from any other Prince or State, in enmity with either nation, to arm their ships in the ports of either of the said two kingdoms, to sell what they have taken, or in any other manner whatever to exchange the same; neither shall they be allowed even to purchase victuals, except such as shall be necessary for their going to the nearest port of that Prince from whom they have obtained commissions.

“ XVII. When any dispute shall arise between any commander of a ship and his seamen, in the ports of either kingdom, concerning wages due to the said seamen, or other civil causes whatever, the magistrate of the place shall require no more from the person accused, than that he give to the accuser a declaration in writing, witnessed by the magistrate, whereby he shall be bound to answer that matter before a competent judge in his own country; which being done, it shall not be lawful either for the seamen to desert their ship, or to hinder the commander from prosecuting his voyage. It shall moreover be lawful for the merchants in the places of their abode, or elsewhere, to keep books of their accounts and affairs, as they shall think fit, and to have an intercourse of letters, in such language or idiom as they shall chuse, without any molestation or search whatsoever. But if it should happen to be necessary for them to produce their books of accounts for deciding any dispute or controversy, in such case, they shall be obliged to bring into court the entire books or writings, but so as the judge may not have liberty to take cognizance of any other articles in the said books, than such as shall relate to the affair in question, or such as shall be necessary to give credit to the said books; neither shall it be lawful, under any pretence, to take the said books or writings forcibly out of the hands of the owners, or to retain them, the case of bankruptcy only excepted. Nor shall the subjects of the King of Great Britain be obliged to write their accounts, letters, or

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1786 other instruments relating to trade, on stamped paper, except their day-book, which, that it may be produced as evidence in any law-suit, ought, according to the laws which all persons trading in France are to observe, to be indorsed and attested gratis by the judge, under his own hand.

“ XVIII. It is further agreed and concluded, that all merchants, commanders of ships, and others, the subjects of the King of Great Britain, in all the dominions of his Most Christian Majesty in Europe, shall have full liberty to manage their own affairs themselves, or to commit them to the management of whomsoever they please; nor shall they be obliged to employ any interpreter or broker, nor to pay them any salary, unless they shall chuse to employ them. Moreover, masters of ships shall not be obliged, in loading or unloading their ships, to make use of those persons who may be appointed by public authority for that purpose, either at Bourdeaux or elsewhere; but it shall be entirely free for them to load or unload their ships by themselves, or to make use of such persons in loading or unloading the same, as they shall think fit, without the payment of any reward to any other whomsoever; neither shall they be forced to unload into other ships, or to receive into their own, any merchandize whatever, or to wait for their lading any longer than they please. And all the subjects of the Most Christian King shall reciprocally have and enjoy the same privileges and liberties, in all the dominions of his Britannic Majesty in Europe.

“ XIX. The ships of either party being laden, sailing along the coasts of the other, and being forced by storm into the havens or ports, or making land there in any other manner whatever, shall not be obliged to unlade their goods, or any part thereof, or to pay any duty, unless they, of their own accord, unlade their goods there, and sell some part thereof. But it shall be lawful, permission having been first obtained from those who have the direction of maritime affairs, to unlade and sell a small part of their cargo, merely for the end of purchasing necessaries, either for victualling or refitting the ship; and in that case the whole lading shall not be subject to pay the duties, but that small part only which shall have been taken out and sold.

“ XX. It shall be lawful for all the subjects of the King of Great Britain, and of the Most Christian King, to sail with their ships, with perfect security and liberty, no distinction being made who are the proprietors of the merchandizes laden thereon, from any port whatever, to the countries which are now, or shall be hereafter at war with the King of Great Britain, or the Most Christian King. It shall likewise be lawful for the aforesaid subjects to sail and traffic with their ships and merchandizes, with the same liberty and security, from the countries, ports and places of those who are enemies of both, or of either party, without any opposition or disturbance whatsoever, and to pass directly not only from the places of the enemy aforementioned to neutral places, but also from one place belonging to an enemy, to another place belonging to an enemy, whether they be under the jurisdiction of the same, or of several Princes: and as it has been stipulated concerning ships and goods, that every thing shall be deemed to be free, which shall be found on board the ships belonging to the subjects of the respective kingdoms, although the whole lading, or part thereof, should belong to the enemies of their Majesties, contraband goods being always excepted, on the stopping of which, such proceedings shall be had as are conformable to the spirit of the following articles; it is likewise agreed, that the same liberty be extended to persons who are on board a free ship, to the end that, although they be enemies to both, or to either party, they may not be taken out of such free ships, unless they are soldiers, actually in the service of the enemies, and on their voyage for the purpose of being employed in a military capacity, in their fleets or armies.

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“ XXI. This liberty of navigation and commerce shall extend to all kinds of merchandizes, excepting those only which are specified in the following article, and which are described under the name of contraband.

“ XXII. Under this name of contraband, or prohibited goods, shall be comprehended arms, cannon, harquebusses, mortars, petards, bombs, grenades, fauciffes, carcasses, carriages for cannon, musket rests, bandoleers, gunpowder, match, saltpetre, ball, pikes, swords, head-pieces, helmets, cuirasses, halberts, javelins, holsters, belts, horses and harness, and all other like kinds of arms and warlike implements fit for the use of troops.

“ XXIII. These merchandizes which follow shall not be reckoned among contraband goods, that is to say, all sorts of cloth, and all other manufactures of wool, flax, silk, cotton, or any other materials, all kinds of wearing apparel, together with the articles of which they are usually made, gold, silver, coined or uncoined, tin, iron, lead, copper, brass coals, as also wheat and barley, and any other kind of corn and pulse, tobacco, and all kinds of spices, salted and smoked flesh, salted fish, cheese and butter, beer, oil, wines, sugar, all sorts of salt, and of provisions which serve for sustenance and food to mankind; all kinds of cotton, cordage, cables, sails, sail-cloth, hemp, tallow, pitch, tar and rosin, anchors, and any parts of anchors, ship-masts, planks, timber of all kinds of trees, and all other things proper either for building or repairing ships. Nor shall any other goods whatever, which have not been worked into the form of any instrument or furniture for warlike use, by land or by sea, be reputed contraband, much less such as have been already wrought and made up for any other purpose. All which things shall be deemed goods not contraband, as likewise all others which are not comprehended and particularly described in the preceding article; so that they may be freely carried by the subjects of both kingdoms, even to places belonging to an enemy, excepting only such places as are besieged, blocked up, or invested.

“ XXIV. To the end that all manner of dissensions and quarrels may be avoided and prevented on both sides, it is agreed, that in case either of their Majesties should be engaged in war, the ships and vessels belonging to the subjects of the other shall be furnished with sea-letters or passports, expressing the name, property and bulk of the ship, as also the name and place of abode of the master or commander of the said ship, that it may appear thereby, that the ship really and truly belongs to the subjects of one of the Princes; which passports shall be made out and granted, according to the form annexed to the present treaty: they shall likewise be renewed every year, if the ship happens to return home within the space of a year. It is also agreed, that such ships when laden are to be provided not only with passports as above-mentioned, but also with certificates containing the several particulars of the cargo, the place from whence the ship sailed, and whither she is bound, so that it may be known whether she carries any of the prohibited or contraband goods specified in the 22d article of this treaty; which certificates shall be prepared by the officers of the place from whence the ship set sail, in the accustomed form. And if any one shall think fit to express in the said certificates the person to whom the goods belong, he may freely do so.

“ XXV. The ships belonging to the subjects and inhabitants of the respective kingdoms, coming to any of the coasts of either of them, but without being willing to enter into port, or being entered, yet not willing to land their cargoes, or break bulk, shall not be obliged to give an account of their lading, unless they are suspected, upon sure evidence, of carrying prohibited goods, called contraband, to the enemies of either of the two high contracting parties.

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“ XXVI. In case the ships belonging to the said subjects and inhabitants of the respective dominions of their Most Serene Majesties, either on the coast, or on the high seas, shall meet with any men of war belonging to their Most Serene Majesties, or with privateers, the said men of war and privateers, for preventing any inconveniencies, are to remain out of cannon shot, and to send their boats to the merchant ship which may be met with, and shall enter her to the number of two or three men only, to whom the master or commander of such ship or vessel shall shew his passport, containing the proof of the property of the ship, made out according to the form annexed to this present treaty; and the ship which shall have exhibited the same, shall have liberty to continue her voyage, and it shall be wholly unlawful any way to molest or search her, or to chase or compel her to alter her course.

“ XXVII. The merchant ships belonging to the subjects of either of the two high contracting parties, which intend to go to a port at enmity with the other sovereign, concerning whose voyage and the sort of goods on board there may be just cause of suspicion, shall be obliged to exhibit, as well on the high seas as in the ports and havens, not only her passports, but also her certificates, expressing that the goods are not of the kind which are contraband, as specified in the 22d article of this treaty.

“ XXVIII. If, on exhibiting the above-mentioned certificates, containing a list of the cargo, the other party shall discover any goods of that kind which are declared contraband, or prohibited, by the 22d article of this treaty, and which are designed for a port subject to his enemy, it shall be unlawful to break up or open the hatches, chests, casks, bales, or other vessels found on board such ship, or to remove even the smallest parcel of the goods, whether the said ship belongs to the subjects of the King of Great Britain, or of the Most Christian King, unless the lading be brought on shore, in the presence of the officers of the court of Admiralty, and an inventory made by them of the said goods: nor shall it be lawful to sell, exchange, or alienate the same in any manner, unless after due and lawful process shall have been had against such prohibited goods, and the judges of the Admiralty respectively shall, by sentence pronounced, have confiscated the same, saving always as well the ship itself, as the other goods found therein, which by this treaty are to be accounted free; neither may they be detained on pretence of their being mixed with prohibited goods, much less shall they be confiscated as lawful prize and if, when only part of the cargo shall consist of contraband goods, the master of the ship shall agree, consent, and offer to deliver them to the captor who has discovered them, in such case, the captor having received such goods, as lawful prize, shall forthwith release the ship, and not hinder her, by any means, from prosecuting her voyage to the place of her destination.

“ XXIX. On the contrary it is agreed, that whatever shall be found to be laden by the subjects and inhabitants of either party, on any ship belonging to the enemies of the other, although it be not contraband goods, shall be confiscated in the same manner as if it belonged to the enemy himself; except those goods and merchandizes which were put on board such ship before the declaration of war, or the general order for reprisals, or even after such declaration, if it were done within the times following; that is to say, if they were put on board such ship in any port or place within the space of two months after such declaration, or order for reprisals, between Archangel, St. Petersburg, and the Scilly islands, and between the said islands and the city of Gibraltar; of ten weeks in the Mediterranean Sea; and of eight months in any other country or place in the world; so that the goods of the subjects of either Prince, whether they be contraband or otherwise, which, as aforesaid, were put on board any ship belonging to an enemy before the war, or after the declaration of the same, within the time and limits

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1786 above-mentioned, shall no wise be liable to confiscation, but shall well and truly be restored, without delay, to the proprietors demanding the same: provided nevertheless that, if the said merchandizes be contraband, it shall not be any ways lawful to carry them afterwards to the ports belonging to the enemy.

“ XXX. And that more abundant care may be taken for the security of the respective subjects of their Most Serene Majesties, to prevent their suffering any injury by the men of war or privateers of either party, all the commanders of the ships of the King of Great Britain, and of the Most Christian King, and all their subjects, shall be forbid doing any damage to those of the other party, or committing any outrage against them; and if they act to the contrary they shall be punished, and shall moreover be bound, in their persons and estates, to make satisfaction and reparation for all damages, and the interest thereof, of what nature soever.

“ XXXI. For this cause, all commanders of privateers, before they receive their patents or special commissions, shall hereafter be obliged to give, before a competent judge, sufficient security by good bail, who are responsible men, and have no interest in the said ship, each of whom shall be bound in the whole for the sum of thirty-six thousand livres tournois, or fifteen hundred pounds sterling; or if such ship be provided with above one hundred and fifty seamen or soldiers, for the sum of seventy-two thousand livres tournois, or three thousand pounds sterling, that they will make entire satisfaction for all damages and injuries whatsoever, which they, or their officers, or others in their service, may commit during their cruize, contrary to the tenor of this present treaty, or the edicts made in consequence thereof by their Most Serene Majesties, under penalty likewise of having their patents and special commissions revoked and annulled.

“ XXXII. Their said Majesties being willing mutually to treat in their dominions the subjects of each other as favourably as if they were their own subjects, will give such orders as shall be necessary and effectual, that the judgments and decrees concerning prizes in the court of Admiralty be given conformably to the rules of justice and equity, and to the stipulations of this treaty, by judges who are above all suspicion, and who have no manner of interest in the cause in dispute.

“ XXXIII. And when the quality of the ship, goods, and master, shall sufficiently appear, from such passports and certificates, it shall not be lawful for the commanders of men of war to exact any further proof under any pretext whatsoever. But if any merchant ship shall not be provided with such passports or certificates, then it may be examined by a proper judge, but in such manner as, if it shall be found, from other proofs and documents, that it truly belongs to the subjects of one of the sovereigns, and does not contain any contraband goods, designed to be carried to the enemy of the other, it shall not be liable to confiscation, but shall be released, together with its cargo, in order to proceed on its voyage.

“ If the master of the ship named in the passports should happen to die, or be removed by any other cause, and another put in his place, the ships and goods laden thereon shall nevertheless be equally secure, and the passports shall remain in full force.

“ XXXIV. It is further provided and agreed, that the ships of either of the two nations, retaken by the privateers of the other, shall be restored to the former owner, if they have not been in the power of the enemy for four and twenty hours, subject to the payment, by the said owner, of one-third of the value of the ship retaken, and of its cargo, guns and apparel; which third part shall be amicably adjusted by the parties concerned; but if not, and in case they

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1786 they should disagree, they shall make application to the officers of the Admiralty of the place where the privateer which retook the captured vessel shall have carried her.

“ If the ship retaken has been in the power of the enemy above four and twenty hours, she shall wholly belong to the privateer which retook her.

“ In case of a ship being retaken by any man of war belonging to his Britannic Majesty, or to his Most Christian Majesty, it shall be restored to the former owner, on payment of the thirtieth part of the value of such ship, and of its cargo, guns, and apparel, if it was retaken within the four and twenty hours, and the tenth part if it was retaken after the four and twenty hours; which sums shall be distributed, as a reward, amongst the crews of the ships which shall have retaken such prize. The valuation of the thirtieth and tenth parts above-mentioned shall be settled conformably to the regulations in the beginning of this article.

“ XXXV. Whensoever the ambassadors of either of their said Majesties, or other their ministers having a public character, and residing at the court of the other Prince, shall complain of the injustice of the sentences which have been given, their Majesties shall respectively cause the same to be revised and re-examined in their councils, unless their councils should already have decided thereupon, that it may appear, with certainty, whether the directions and provisions prescribed in this treaty, have been followed and observed. Their Majesties shall likewise take care that this matter be effectually provided for, and that justice be done to every complainant within the space of three months. However, before or after judgment given, and pending the revision thereof, it shall not be lawful to sell the goods in dispute, or to unlade them, unless with the consent of the persons concerned, for preventing any kind of loss; and laws shall be enacted on both sides for the execution of the present article.

“ XXXVI. If any differences shall arise respecting the legality of prizes, so that a judicial decision should become necessary, the judge shall direct the effects to be unladen, an inventory and appraisement to be made thereof, and security to be required respectively from the captor for paying the costs, in case the ship should not be declared lawful prize; and from the claimant for paying the value of the prize, in case it should be declared lawful; which securities being given by both parties, the prize shall be delivered up to the claimant. But if the claimant should refuse to give sufficient security, the judge shall direct the prize to be delivered to the captor, after having received from him good and sufficient security for paying the full value of the said prize, in case it should be adjudged illegal. Nor shall the execution of the sentence of the judge be suspended by reason of any appeal, when the party against whom such appeal shall be brought, whether claimant or captor, shall have given sufficient security for restoring the ship or effects, or the value of such ship or effects, to the appellant, in case judgment should be given in his favour.

“ XXXVII. In case any ships of war or merchantmen, forced by storms or other accidents, be driven on rocks or shelves, on the coasts of either of the high contracting parties, and should there be dashed to pieces and shipwrecked; all such parts of the said ships, or of the furniture or apparel thereof, as also of the goods and merchandizes as shall be saved, or the produce thereof, shall be faithfully restored, upon the same being claimed by the proprietors, or their factors, duly authorised, paying only the expences incurred in the preservation thereof, according to the rate of salvage settled on both sides; saving at the same time the rights and customs of each nation, the abolition or modification of which shall however be treated upon, in the cases where they shall be contrary to the stipulations of the present article; and their
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1786 Majesties will mutually interpose their authority, that such of their subjects as shall be so inhuman as to take advantage of any such misfortune, may be severely punished.

“ XXXVIII. It shall be free for the subjects of each party to employ such advocates, attornies, notaries, solicitors and factors as they shall think fit; to which end the said advocates and others above-mentioned, shall be appointed by the ordinary judges, if it be needful, and the judges be thereunto required.

“ XXXIX. And for the greater security and liberty of commerce and navigation, it is further agreed, that both the King of Great Britain, and the Most Christian King, shall not only refuse to receive any pirates or sea-rovers whatsoever into any of their havens, ports, cities, or towns, or permit any of their subjects, citizens, or inhabitants, on either part, to receive or protect them in their ports, to harbour them in their houses, or to assist them in any manner whatsoever; but further they shall cause all such pirates and sea-rovers, and all persons who shall receive, conceal, or assist them, to be brought to condign punishment, for a terror and example to others. And all their ships, with the goods or merchandizes taken by them, and brought into the ports of either kingdom, shall be seized as far as they can be discovered, and shall be restored to the owners, or their factors duly authorized or deputed by them in writing, proper evidence being first given in the court of Admiralty, for proving the property, even in case such effects should have passed into other hands by sale, if it be proved that the buyers knew, or might have known, that they had been piratically taken. And generally all ships and merchandizes, of what nature soever, which may be taken on the high seas, shall be brought into some port of either kingdom, and delivered into the custody of the officers of that port, that they may be restored entire to the true proprietor, as soon as due and sufficient proof shall have been made concerning the property thereof.

“ XL. It shall be lawful, as well for the ships of war of their Majesties, as for privateers belonging to their subjects, to carry whithersoever they please, the ships and goods taken from their enemies, without being obliged to pay any fee to the officers of the Admiralty, or to any judges whatever; nor shall the said prizes, when they arrive at and enter the ports of their said Majesties, be detained or seized; neither shall the searchers, or other officers of those places, visit or take cognizance of the validity of such prizes; but they shall be at liberty to hoist sail at any time, to depart, and to carry their prizes to the place mentioned in the commissions or patents, which the commanders of such ships of war shall be obliged to shew: on the contrary, no shelter or refuge shall be given in their ports to such as have made a prize upon the subjects of either of their Majesties; but if forced by stress of weather, or the dangers of the sea, to enter therein, particular care shall be taken to hasten their departure, and to cause them to retire from thence as soon as possible, as far as it is not repugnant to former treaties made in this respect with other sovereigns or states.

“ XLI. Neither of their Majesties shall permit the ships of goods belonging to the subjects of the other to be taken within cannon shot of the coast, or in the ports or rivers of their dominions, by ships of war, or others having commission from any prince, republic, or city whatsoever: but in case it should so happen, both parties shall employ their united force to obtain reparation of the damage thereby occasioned.

“ XLII. But if it shall appear that the captor made use of any kind of torture upon the master of the ship, the crew, or others who shall be on board any ship belonging to the subjects of the other party, in such case, not only the ship itself, together with the persons, merchandizes, and goods whatsoever, shall be forthwith released, without any delay, and set entirely free, but also such as shall be convicted of so enormous a crime, together with their accomplices,

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complices, shall suffer the most severe punishment suitable to their offences: this the King of Great Britain and the Most Christian King mutually engage shall be observed, without any respect of persons whatsoever.

“ XLIII. Their Majesties shall respectively be at liberty, for the advantage of their subjects trading to the kingdoms and dominions of either of them, to appoint therein national consuls, who shall enjoy the right, immunity, and liberty belonging to them, by reason of their duties and their functions; and places shall hereafter be agreed upon where the said consuls shall be established, as well as the nature and extent of their functions. The convention relative to this point shall be concluded immediately after the signature of the present treaty, of which it shall be deemed to constitute a part.

“ XLIV. It is also agreed, that in whatever relates to the lading and unlading of ships, the safety of merchandize, goods, and effects, the succession to personal estates, as well as the protection of individuals, and the personal liberty, as also the administration of justice, the subjects of the two high contracting parties shall enjoy in their respective dominions, the same privileges, liberties, and rights, as the most favoured nation.

“ XLV. If hereafter it shall happen, through inadvertency or otherwise, that any infractions or contraventions of the present treaty should be committed on either side, the friendship and good understanding shall not immediately thereupon be interrupted; but this treaty shall subsist in all its force, and proper remedies shall be procured for removing the inconveniencies, as likewise for the reparation of the contraventions; and if the subjects of either kingdom shall be found guilty thereof, they only shall be punished and severely chastised.

“ XLVI. His Britannic Majesty and his Most Christian Majesty have reserved the right of revising and re-examining the several stipulations of this treaty, after the term of twelve years, to be computed from the day of passing laws for its execution in Great Britain and Ireland respectively, to propose and make such alterations as the times and circumstances may have rendered proper or necessary for the commercial interests of their respective subjects: and this revision is to be completed in the space of twelve months; after which term the present treaty shall be of no effect; but in that event, the good harmony and friendly correspondence between the two nations shall not suffer the least diminution.

“ XLVII. The present treaty shall be ratified and confirmed by his Britannic Majesty, and by his Most Christian Majesty, in two months, or sooner if it can be done, after the exchange of signatures between the plenipotentiaries.

“ In witness whereof, we, the under-signed commissioners and plenipotentiaries of the King of Great Britain and the Most Christian King, have signed the present treaty with our hands, and have set thereto the seals of our arms.

“ Done at Versailles the 26th of September, 1786.

“ WILLIAM EDEN, (L. S.)

“ GERARD DE RAYNEVAL, (L. S.)”

FORM of the PASSPORTS and SEA-LETTERS which are to be granted by the respective Admiralties of the Dominions of the two High Contracting Parties to the Ships and Vessels sailing from thence, pursuant to the twenty-fourth Article of the present Treaty.

“ N. N. To all who shall see these presents, greeting.—Be it known that we have granted licence and permission to N. of the city, (or place) of N. master or commander of the ship N. belonging to N. of the port of N. burthen _____ tons or thereabouts, now lying in the port or haven of N. to sail to N. laden with N. the said ship having been examined before her departure, in the usual manner, by the officers of the place appointed for that purpose. And the said

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1786 said N, or such other person as shall happen to succeed him, shall produce this licence in every port or haven which he may enter with his ship, to the officers of the place, and shall give a true account to them of what shall have passed or happened during his voyage; and he shall carry the colours, arms, and ensigns of N. during his voyage.

“ In witness whereof, we have signed these presents, and set the seal of our arms thereto, and caused the same to be countersigned by N. at _____ in the year, &c.”

The Canada sales, in this year, amounted to 173,000l.

The revenue arising from the distillery in England for this and the preceding year, was,—

In 1785,	—	—	—	—	—	£. 314,040	0	0
— 1786,	—	—	—	—	—	427,741	0	0
Total of the two years amounted to	—	—	—	—	—	741,781	0	0

An Account of the Variations in the rate of Duty on CORN WASH from Midsummer 1749, to Midsummer 1786, calculated from the respective Variations in the Duties on low Wines and Spirits, together with an Account of the average Quantity of Spirits annually made, and the average Amount of the Duties annually collected under each Rate.

Years.	Average Quantity of Spirits an- nually made.	Rate per Gal- lon on the Wash.	Average Amount of the Duties an- nually collected.	
	Gallons.	d.	£. s.	
1750, } 1751, }	6,571,305	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	319,321	0 { An additional duty was imposed in the year 1751, but no spirits subject to that duty were made till the year 1752.
1753, } 1754, } 1755, } 1756, }	4,548,800	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{2}{10}$	353,758	0 { In March 1757 the making of spirits from corn was prohibit- ed; the prohibition ended in April 1760.
1761, } 1763, } 1764, } 1765, } 1766, } 1767, } 1768, } 1769, } 1770, }	2,714,119	6 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{2}{10}$	474,957	0
1771, } 1772, } 1773, } 1774, } 1775, } 1776, } 1777, } 1778, } 1779, }	2,180,019	7	423,712	11
1781, } 1782, }	2,299,493	7 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{8}{10}$	489,787	16 { Exclusive of 2 five per cents. viz. that of April 6, 1779, & April 6, 1781.
1783, } 1784, }	1,438,442	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{42}{100}$	529,096	16 { Including the 2 five per cents. of 1779 and 1781.
1785, } 1786, }	3,014,784 4,106,314	5 5	314,040 427,741	0 { Including 3 five per cents.; the last of which was imposed July 26, 1782.

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An authentic account of corn and grain exported from, and imported into England and Scotland this year.

EXPORTED.

1786.	British	Foreign
ENGLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	128,114	9,888
Wheat Flour,	64,855	1,303
Rye, —	5,467	1,269
Barley, —	14,973	1,423
Malt, —	79,656	—
Oats, —	12,215	1,324
Oatmeal, —	1,147	194
Beans, —	9,903	434
Peas, —	5,354	140
SCOTLAND.	Qrs.	Qrs.
Wheat, —	507	—
Wheat flour	798	—
Barley, —	9,383	—
Barley hulled, —	54	—
Bear, —	10,137	—
Bear-meal, —	98	—
Malt, —	6,108	—
Oats, —	2,300	—
Oatmeal, —	2,113	—
Peas and Beans,	478	—

IMPORTED.

1786.	Quarters.
ENGLAND.	
Wheat, —	47,961
Wheat Flour,	3,502
Rye, —	311
Barley, —	50,143
—	—
Oats, —	405,334
Oat-meal, —	6,763
Beans, —	33,912
Peas, —	1,617
SCOTLAND.	
—	—
Barley, —	12,231
Rye, —	1
—	—
—	—
Oats, —	43,056
Oatmeal, —	23,320
Peas and Beans,	180

The bounties on corn and grain exported from England in the course of this year, amounted to 50,973l. 18s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The drawbacks, during the same period, were 79l. 19s. 4d.

The amount of the bounties paid on corn and grain exported from Scotland, during the same time, was 2,830l. 1s. 10d.

The duties on corn imported into England, was 5,556l. 2s. 9d.; and, in Scotland, they amounted to 714l. 8s. 0d.

The average prices of corn in England and Wales, by the standard Winchester bushel, for this year, was as follows:—

Wheat, 4s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.; rye, 3s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; barley, 3s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$; oats, 2s. 3d.; beans, 4s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The prices of the coarsest sorts of grain generally exceed and reduce the average price as follows:—

Wheat, 6d. per bushel; rye, 3d.; barley, 3d.; oats, 3d.; beans, 6d.

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	9,183	Buried, males	10,253
— females	8,936	— females	10,201
	18,119		20,454

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The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	5 per cent.	Long Ann.	Short Ann. 1778	India Stock.	Indi. Ann.	India Bondi.	Old Ann.	New Ann. 1777	Navy Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Lottery Tickets.
January,	{ 140	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	87 $\frac{3}{8}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	156	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	46p	67 $\frac{3}{4}$		2 $\frac{1}{4}$ dif	11 pr.	14 9
	{ 141	71 $\frac{1}{8}$	72 $\frac{1}{4}$	89 $\frac{1}{8}$	107 $\frac{1}{8}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	162	66	56	69			12	14 17
February,	{ 139 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{5}{8}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	88 $\frac{5}{8}$	104 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{3}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	155	64 $\frac{7}{8}$	46	68 $\frac{1}{8}$	67 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	15	14 17
	{ 140 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{7}{8}$	70 $\frac{5}{8}$	89 $\frac{3}{8}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{7}{8}$	55	69	68	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	20 0
March,	{ 139 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	104 $\frac{1}{8}$	20 $\frac{3}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{8}$	45	68	66 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	4	—
	{ 142 $\frac{7}{8}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{5}{8}$	89 $\frac{3}{4}$	105 $\frac{7}{8}$	20 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{8}$	58	69 $\frac{1}{4}$	68 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	—
April,	{ 137	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	69	87 $\frac{7}{8}$	104	20 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	158 $\frac{1}{4}$	65 $\frac{7}{8}$	45		67 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	—
	{ 138 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{7}{8}$	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	90	106 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	160 $\frac{1}{4}$	65 $\frac{1}{4}$	57		68 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		—
May,	{ 137 $\frac{3}{8}$	68 $\frac{7}{8}$	69	88	106 $\frac{1}{8}$	21	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	159 $\frac{1}{4}$	65 $\frac{1}{4}$	46	67 $\frac{3}{4}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	5	—
	{ 146 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	162 $\frac{3}{4}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	53	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	70 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	—
June,	{ 143	72	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{4}$	110 $\frac{1}{4}$	22		158 $\frac{1}{8}$	68	52	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	71 $\frac{1}{8}$	2	14	14 8
	{ 146 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{3}{8}$	111 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$		162 $\frac{1}{4}$	68 $\frac{7}{8}$	60	71	72 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	27	14 16
July,	{ 146 $\frac{3}{8}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	92 $\frac{1}{8}$	111 $\frac{5}{8}$	22	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	157	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	65	71 $\frac{5}{8}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	31	14 10
	{ 150 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{5}{8}$	161 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{7}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	34	14 13
August,	{ 150 $\frac{3}{4}$	77 $\frac{3}{8}$	76	97 $\frac{3}{8}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	166	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	14 11
	{ 159	78 $\frac{7}{8}$	78 $\frac{5}{8}$	99	115 $\frac{3}{4}$	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	169 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	110	78	77 $\frac{3}{4}$	2	50	14 19
Septemb.	{ 156	78 $\frac{3}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{8}$	98	112 $\frac{7}{8}$	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	70	77 $\frac{3}{8}$	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	14 19
	{ 159 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{5}{8}$	78 $\frac{1}{8}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{8}$	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	107	78	77 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	60	15 3
October,	{ 149	75	75 $\frac{7}{8}$	94	112 $\frac{7}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	163	71 $\frac{7}{8}$	85	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	42	15 1
	{ 146 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{7}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{5}{8}$	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	167	73	91	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{8}$	56	15 4
Novemb.	{ 145 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	91 $\frac{7}{8}$	111 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	69	84	72 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10	14 18
	{ 149 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	113 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	167 $\frac{1}{4}$	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	91	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	40	15 3
Decemb.	{ 146 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	92 $\frac{3}{8}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	166	69 $\frac{1}{4}$	70	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	15	14 16
	{ 151 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	93 $\frac{1}{4}$	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{5}{8}$	168 $\frac{1}{4}$	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	88	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	17	14 19

The following bills relative to trade and commerce, received the royal assent this year :—

A bill for the further continuation, for a limited time, of the acts passed in the 23d and 24th of his present Majesty, touching the commercial intercourse between the United States of North America and his Majesty's dominions.

For confining, to a limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America and his Majesty's subjects in the island of Newfoundland, to bread, flour, Indian corn, and live-stock ; to be imported in none but British-built ships, actually belonging to British subjects, and navigated according to law, &c.

For prohibiting, for a limited time, the exportation of hay.

For regulating the exportation of hops to Ireland.

To explain and amend certain provisions of an act made in the 24th of his present Majesty, respecting the better regulation and management of the affairs of the East India Company.

For obviating all doubts which have arisen or might arise with respect to the exclusive power of the court of directors of the East India Company to nominate and appoint the governor-general and council of the presidency of Fort William, in Bengal.

To amend the laws for the encouragement of the Newfoundland fishery.

For vesting certain sums in commissioners at the end of every quarter of a year, to be by them applied to the reduction of the national debt.

For the further relief of debtors, with respect to the imprisonment of their persons ; and to oblige debtors who shall continue in execution in prison beyond a certain time, and for sums not exceeding what are mentioned in the act, to make discovery of, and deliver upon oath, their estates for their creditors benefit.

For

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For the further encouragement of the fisheries in the Greenland seas and Davis's Straits,
For regulating the production of manifests, and to prevent fraudulent practices in obtaining bounties and drawbacks, and in the clandestine lading of goods.

For the further encouragement of the growth of hemp and flax in England.

For more effectually preventing the fraudulent removal of tobacco, &c.

For the encouragement of the Southern whale fishery.

For the further encouragement of the pilchard fishery.

Respecting the importation of naval stores from the British colonies in America, British made gunpowder, British sail-cloth, foreign sail-cloth; the exportation of sugars from the British colonies directly to foreign ports, in British built ships; the discontinuing of duties upon the importation of tallow, hogs-lard, and grease; and granting other duties on pot and pearl-ashes, wood, and wood-ashes, in the room of those now repealed; for allowing the importation of salt from Europe to Quebec; the importation of raw goat-skins into this kingdom; for encouraging the manufacture of flax and cotton in Great Britain; for reviving the drawback on the duties on rum shipped as stores, and the allowing of a bounty on the importation of hemp and flax from the British American colonies.

For repealing certain duties on wines imported, and for granting new duties in lieu thereof, under the management of the commissioners of excise.

For the increase, &c. of shipping and navigation.

For the further regulation of the trial of persons accused of certain offences committed in the East Indies; and for repealing part of an act made in the 24th of his present Majesty, entitled, "An act for the better regulation and management of the affairs of the East India Company, of the British possessions in India, and establishing a court of judicature for the more speedy and effectual trial of persons accused of offences committed in the East Indies;" and for the more easy proof in certain cases of deeds and writings executed in Great Britain or India.

To appoint commissioners further to enquire into the fees, gratuities, perquisites, and emoluments, which are or have been lately received in the several public offices therein mentioned, to examine into any abuses which may exist in the same, and to report such observations as shall occur to them for the better conducting and managing the business in the said offices.

For appointing and enabling commissioners further to examine, take, and state the public accounts of the kingdom.

To prevent the unlawful pawning of goods, and easy redemption of goods pawned, &c.

To enable the East India Company to raise money by the sale of annuities, &c.

For the further preventing frauds in the payment of seamen's wages, &c.

For repealing so much of two acts of Parliament of the 14th and 21st of George III. as prohibits the exportation of wool-cards at a limited price.

To continue certain acts relating to the punishment of persons going armed or disguised contrary to the excise and custom laws; and to prevent the committing of frauds by bankrupts.

Respecting the act allowing a bounty on the exportation of British made cordage,

For the more effectual encouragement of the British fisheries.

For incorporating certain persons therein named, by the name and stile of "The British Society for extending of the Fisheries, and improving the Sea-coasts of the Kingdom;" and to enable them, when incorporated, to subscribe a joint stock, and therewith to purchase lands, and build thereon free towns, villages, and fishing stations in the Highlands and islands of Scotland, and for other purposes.

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SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—						£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	—	—	—	—	—	2,428,326	18	8
For the army,	—	—	—	—	—	2,043,729	19	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
For the ordnance,	—	—	—	—	—	346,877	17	1
Miscellaneous services,	—	—	—	—	—	7,255,400	0	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Deficiencies,	—	—	—	—	—	1,412,203	1	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
Total Supplies,						13,486,537	17	1 $\frac{1}{8}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing Supplies.						£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	—	—	—	—	—	2,750,000	0	0
To be applied out of the sinking fund,	—	—	—	—	—	582,488	15	9 $\frac{3}{4}$
Further application out of the sinking fund,	—	—	—	—	—	1,000,000	0	0
Surplus of ditto,	—	—	—	—	—	628,982	0	1
Exchequer bills,	—	—	—	—	—	2,500,000	0	0
By certain surplusses of duties, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	188,750	0	0
Lottery,	—	—	—	—	—	290,810	4	6 $\frac{1}{8}$
Surplus of monies granted for the army in 1784,	—	—	—	—	—	65,575	4	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Army savings and stoppages in 1785,	—	—	—	—	—	100,508	13	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Imprest, and other monies in the Exchequer,	—	—	—	—	—	2,600,000	0	0
Further application of the sinking fund,	—	—	—	—	—	3,000,000	0	0
By further Exchequer bills,	—	—	—	—	—	21,568	13	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Surplus of monies voted for Chelsea pensioners in 1785,	—	—	—	—	—	13,900,992	15	4 $\frac{5}{8}$
Total of Ways and Means,	—	—	—	—	—	13,486,537	17	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
Total amount of Supplies granted,	—	—	—	—	—	414,454	18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Excess of Ways and Means,	—	—	—	—	—			

An authentic and correct list of the national debt, to the 5th of January in this year.

	Capitals.			Interest.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Bank stock,	11,642,406	0	0	698,544	0	0
Five per cent. navy annuities,	17,869,993	9	10	893,499	13	5
Four per cent. consols.	32,750,100	0	0	1,310,000	0	0
Three per cent. consols.	107,401,696	5	1	3,222,050	17	9
Three per cent reduced,	37,340,073	4	0	1,120,202	4	3
Three per cent. of 1726,	1,000,000	0	0	30,000	0	0
Long annuities, of 610,375l. per annum, calculated at 21 years purchase only,	20,411,250	0	0	680,375	0	0
Short annuities, 1777; of 25,000l. per annum; ditto 1778 and 1779, of 412,500l. calculated at 14 years purchase,	6,125,000	0	0	437,500	0	0
Carried forward,	£.234,540,518	18	11	£.8,392,171	15	5

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	Brought forward,	£.234,540,518 18 11	£.8,392,171 15 8
South Sea stock,	— —	3,662,784 8 6	128,197 9 1
Three per cent. old annuities,	—	11,937,470 2 7	357,224 2 0
Three per cent. new ditto,	—	8,494,830 2 10	254,844 18 1
Three per cent. of 1751,	—	1,919,600 0 0	57,588 0 0
India stock,	— — —	3,200,000 0 0	256,000 0 0
Three per cent. annuities,	—	3,000,000 0 0	90,000 0 0
Total national debt,		266,755,203 12 10	9,536,026 4 7

1787 An event of the first importance to the commercial interests of this country, which had taken place subsequent to the conclusion of the last session of Parliament, presented itself to the immediate notice of that assembly, when it met, on the 23d of January in this year. This was the signing, at Versailles, on the 26th of September preceding, a treaty of commerce between the courts of England and France, of which we have already given an authentic copy.

The speech from the throne, at the commencement of the session, observed upon the apparent tranquillity of Europe, and recommended the treaty of commerce to the sanction of Parliament. It also referred three specific measures to their approbation;—a convention respecting the cutting of logwood, with the Catholic King; a plan which had been formed for transporting a number of convicts to a part of the island of New Holland, known by the name of Botany Bay; and certain regulations for the accommodation of the mercantile part of the kingdom, and for simplifying the public accounts in the various branches of the revenue.

On the 12th of February, the day appointed for taking the treaty into consideration, a petition was presented from the Chamber of Manufacturers, stating their sense of the serious and awful importance of the treaty,—and that, after the most careful investigation, they had not been able to form any certain judgment upon the subject: they, therefore, deprecated the Houses coming to a decisive vote upon that day, and concluded with an allusion to the providential effects which were universally allowed to have resulted from the delay, that had been introduced by the mercantile interest into the discussion of the Irish propositions. This petition, however, not appearing to be of sufficient weight to cause the discussion of the treaty to be deferred, Mr. Pitt entered upon a communication of the benefits which he conceived would result to Great Britain from this important transaction. As it may be reasonably supposed, that the ministerial speeches on this occasion contained the real grounds upon which the treaty was formed, we shall give the substance of them, as containing the best history of the nature, foundation, and particular objects of our new commercial alliance.

The treaty in question had been, for a considerable time, in the hands of every manufacturer and merchant in the kingdom, and had been very freely discussed in a great variety of publications, without any complaint having been heard from any great manufacturing body of men, except the petition from the Chamber of Commerce; which, after all, did not state any reasons against the treaty, but rested simply on the vague and unsatisfactory ground, that after between four and five months, the petitioners had not had sufficient time to consider it. The allusion made to the conduct and communications of the manufacturers on the Irish propositions, and the utility which resulted from the delay which their intervention occasioned, was by no means calculated to enforce any arguments offered to keep back the discussion of the

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1787 the commercial treaty. While those propositions were in agitation, the manufacturers of the kingdom had shown, that they possessed the most unremitting vigilance in watching over their interests, and, at least, a sufficient degree of firmness in maintaining their objections. There was not a commercial or manufacturing body that thought itself concerned, that did not instantly take the alarm and join in the general remonstrances on the Irish propositions; while, on the present occasion, the manufacturers, watchful as they are of their interests, had taken no alarm. The woollen trade, so naturally dear to this country, had manifested no species of apprehension: the manufacturers of cambrics, of glass, the distillery, and other members and branches of our domestic trade, though, in fact, particularly affected by the treaty, had made no complaint; much less had any notice of objection been received from the manufacturers in hardware, the potteries, &c.; and so far were the public from entertaining any dislike, or even doubts concerning the merits of this treaty, that the generality of the nation were sanguine in wishing for the ratification of it.

With respect to a right conception of the commercial part of the treaty, it will be necessary to consider the relative state of the two kingdoms which were to be bound by it. On the very first idea of the matter it appears, that France has the advantage in the gifts of soil and climate, and in the amount of her natural produce; while Great Britain was, on her part, confessedly superior in her manufactures and artificial productions. In point of natural produce, France had greatly the advantage in this treaty; her wines, brandies, oils and vinegars, particularly the two former, are matters of such important value in her produce, as to destroy all idea of reciprocity as to the natural produce:—we, perhaps, have nothing of that kind to put in competition, but simply the article of beer: but, on the contrary, is it not a fact as demonstrably clear, that Britain, in its turn, possesses some manufactures exclusive of her own; and that in others she has so completely the advantage of her neighbour, as to put competition at defiance. This then is the relative condition, and the precise ground on which a valuable correspondence and connection between the two countries might be established. Having each its own distinct staple,—having each that which the other wanted, and not clashing in the great and leading lines of their respective riches, they might be considered as two great traders in different branches, who might engage in a traffic that would prove mutually beneficial to them.—Granting that a large quantity of their natural produce would be brought into this country, it cannot, on the other hand, be denied, that we should send more cottons by the direct course now settled, than by the circuitous passages formerly used, as well as more of our woollens than while restricted in their importation to particular ports and burdened with very heavy duties. Will not more of our earthen ware and other articles, which, under all the disadvantages they formerly suffered, forced their way into France, now be sent thither in far greater quantities; and will not the aggregate of our manufactures be greatly and eminently benefited in going to this market loaded only with duties from twelve to ten, and, in one instance, with only five per cent. If the advantages, in this respect, were not so palpable as to strike every mind qualified to form a judgment on the subject, petitions would have flowed in from every quarter.

The article of fadlery, which is charged the highest in the tariff, gave no kind of alarm.—The traders in this article, though charged with a duty of fifteen per cent. knew their superiority so well, that they cheerfully embraced the condition. A market of so many millions of people,—a market so near and prompt,—a market of expedition and certain return, of necessary and extensive consumption, thus added to the commerce and manufactures of Great Britain is

1787 an object of most advantageous acquisition. To procure this we ought to give liberal conditions; nor ought we, in any degree to hesitate from the miserable idea that, while this arrangement is so advantageous to us, will also be beneficial to them. It is not hereby a consoling but an exhilarating speculation to the mind of an Englishman, that after the empire had been engaged in a competition the most arduous and imminent it had ever known, after struggling, as it were, for its existence, that still it maintained its rank and efficacy so firmly, that France, finding it could not shake her, opened its arms, and offered a beneficial connection with her, on easy, liberal and advantageous terms.

We agreed, by this treaty, to take from France, on small duties, the luxuries of her soil, which our own refinements had converted into necessities. The wines of France were already so much in possession of our markets, that, with all the high duties paid by us, they found their way to our tables: it could not, therefore, but prove a very great advantage to admit these luxuries on easier terms: nor would the admission of them supplant the wines of Portugal or of Spain; it would only operate, and very advantageously, to suppress, in a great measure, a pernicious manufacture of wines in this country. With respect to brandy, it is an equally beneficial and eligible measure to diminish the duties, the reduction of which must have a material effect on the contraband trade in this article. It is well known, that the quantity clandestinely imported bears a great proportion to the legal importation; the legal importation of brandy being no more than 600,000 gallons, and the supposed amount of the smuggled, according to the best founded estimation, between 300,000 and 400,000 gallons. As this article, therefore, had taken such complete possession of the taste of the nation, it was certainly a right policy to procure to the state a greater advantage from the article than heretofore, and to put an end to its contraband trade by legalising the market.

The oil and vinegar of France are comparatively small objects, but, like the former, they were luxuries which had taken the shape of necessities, and which, of course, we did right in accepting on easy terms. These were the natural products of France to be admitted under the treaty. As to the manufactures of that country, the first article is cambric, and the fact is, that as we had long ago laid aside all competition in that fabric, there could be no injury in granting an easy importation to that which we would have at any rate. In no other article is there any thing very formidable in the rivalry of France. Glass would not be imported to any amount: in particular kinds of lace, indeed, the French might have the advantage, but none which they would not enjoy independent of the treaty.

It has been argued by some speculating politicians, that no beneficial treaty could be made between this country and France, because no such treaty had ever been formed; and because, on the contrary, commercial intercourses with her had always been injurious to England.—This reasoning, however, was entirely fallacious: for, in the first place, we had, during a very long series of years, experienced a commercial connection with France; and, secondly, though it might be true, that a commercial intercourse founded on the treaty of Utrecht would have been injurious, it did not follow that this would prove the same, as, at that time, the manufactures in which we now excel possessed a bare existence, and were on the side of France instead of being against her. The tariff did not then, as now, comprehend all the articles in which we comparatively excelled, but, in addition to the produce of France, which at all periods must be the same, she had the balance of manufactures also in her favour. At that period also the prejudices of manufacturers against France were extreme, and corresponded with the party violence of the day in the reprobation of the measure; but so far was the Par-

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1787 liament from entertaining an opinion, that any commercial treaty made with France must be detrimental to the interests of this country, that it presented an address to her Majesty, (Queen Anne) praying her to renew commercial negotiations with the court of France. The fact really was, that we had not invariably considered it as a part of our policy to resist all connection with France;—she had ever been more jealous of us than we of her;—prohibitions began on the part of France, and we only retaliated in our own defence. The surrender of revenue for great commercial purposes, is a policy by no means unknown in the history of Great Britain;—increase by means of reduction may have been a paradox, but experience has long since established it as an incontrovertible maxim of political oeconomies.

If the relative situation of the two countries is changed,—if it is true, that at the treaty of Utrecht we had but little to send to France, and that now we had much to send thither,—that our manufactures were so confessedly superior as to dread no competition, and greatly to counterbalance the natural produce of France, it may be asked, what reason is there in policy or the nature of things to prevent our entering into the treaty; or whether there is any insurmountable obstacle to connections of interest and amity between the two countries.

As to the Methuen treaty, there is nothing in the treaty with France which prevents an entire compliance with the conditions of it, if the British legislature should find it right, by the conduct of Portugal, to maintain the full force of that treaty. By enlarging our markets for wine, we neither infringed on the markets of Portugal or Spain: and as to any other powers, it has not been suggested that the treaty in question could in the least affect our connection with them.

Considering the treaty in a political view, the idea of France being the unalterable enemy of Great Britain must be done away. To suppose that any nation could be unalterably the enemy of another, was weak and childish. It had neither its foundation in the experience of nations, nor in the history of man. It is a libel on the constitution of political societies, and supposed the existence of a diabolical, immoveable malice in the original frame of our nature. If there is any thing in the treaty which could justify the supposition, that the interval of peace between the two countries would be so totally unemployed by us, as to disable us from meeting France in the moment of war with our accustomed strength? will it not rather, by opening new sources of wealth, speak this forcible language,—that the interval of peace, as it would enrich the nation, would also prove the means of enabling her to combat her enemy with more effect, when the day of hostility should arrive: but it promises even more,—as, by promoting habits of friendly intercourse and of mutual benefit, it will not only invigorate the resources of Great Britain, but lessen the probability of such occasions as must call them forth. It would certainly have, at least, the happy tendency to make the two nations enter into more intimate communion with one another; and being endeared to each other by the result of common benefits, it gave every reason to hope for the preservation of harmony between them. The provisions of the treaty neither delude us into security, nor threaten to accomplish our reduction; on the contrary, it promises to strengthen our hands,—and, at the same time, to throw the prospect and the necessity of war at a very great distance. Whatever might be said of the restless ambition of France, her crafty character and incessant enmity against Great Britain, her assurances and open conduct during the late negotiation, were of a nature as might justify reliance: at present the court of France is governed by maxims too prudent and political, not to consult its own safety and happiness beyond the ministerial aims of impracticable conquest. Oppressed as this nation was during the late war, by a most formidable combina-

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1787 tion for its destruction, yet had France very little to boast at the end of the contest, which should induce them again to enter deliberately into hostilities against this country; that country reflecting, that though she had gained her object in dismembering our empire, she had done it at an expence which had sunk herself in extreme embarrassment, and that such a combination of hostile power against us can never be imagined again to exist:—may not the idea be naturally cherished, that seeing the steady and durable character of our strength, and the inefficacy as well as the ruin of hostility, France would eagerly wish to try the benefits of an amicable connection with us. To imagine that the French would consent to yield advantages without the expectation of a return, was too ridiculous to admit into argument; but though the treaty in question would afford considerable benefit to them, there is every reason to believe that it would be more advantageous to us. The proof of this assertion is short and indubitable. She gains for her wines and other produce a great and opulent market, we did the same to a much greater degree. She procured a market of 8,000,000, we a market of 24,000,000 of people.—France gained this market for her produce, which employed in preparation but few hands, gave little encouragement to its navigation, and produced but little to the state; we gained this market for our manufactures, which employed many hundreds of thousands, and which, in collecting the materials from every corner of the world, advanced our maritime strength, as well as in all their combinations and in every article and stage of their process, contributed largely to the state. France could not gain the accession of 100,000*l.* to her revenue by the treaty; but England must necessarily gain a million.—This may be easily demonstrated.—The high price of labour in England arises chiefly from the excise, and three-fifths of the price of labour are said to come into the Exchequer. The produce of France, on the contrary, is low in the staple, and less productive to the state in the process. Even the reduced duties are so proportionably high, that France could not send us 500,000*l.* worth of brandies, but we must gain cent. per cent. by the article. In this view then, though France might gain, we must be, comparatively, so much more benefitted, that we ought not to scruple to give the disproportionate advantages with which she is satisfied. It is in the nature and essence of an agreement between a manufacturing country and a country blessed with peculiar productions, that the advantages must terminate in favour of the former; and the treaty was particularly disposed and fitted for both the connections. Thus France is, by the peculiar dispensation of Providence, gifted, perhaps, more than any country upon earth, with what made life desirable, in point of soil, climate, and natural productions; it possesses the most fertile vineyards and the richest harvests; the greatest luxuries of man were produced in it with little cost and with moderate labour. Britain was not thus blessed by nature; but it, nevertheless, possessed, from the happy freedom of its constitution, and the equal security of its laws, an energy in its enterprize, and a stability in its exertions, which had gradually raised it to a state of commercial grandeur; and not being so bountifully gifted by Heaven, it had recourse to labour and art, by which it had acquired the ability of supplying its neighbour with all the necessary embellishments of life, in exchange for her natural luxuries. Thus standing with regard to each other, a friendly connection seemed to be pointed out between them, instead of that state of enmity, which rooted prejudice and party zeal can alone consider as the natural relative position of the two countries.

In opposition to the commercial treaty, the following train of reasoning was pursued with no common zeal, ability and eloquence.

It was urged that, by this treaty with France, we were belying the prosperity we actually possessed, and entering, like bankrupt merchants, on speculations of no common risque and danger.

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danger. That our commerce was in a course of public benefit, which wanted not the aid of France to support and enlarge it, was an opinion founded on the following statement of it, from the year 1740 to the conclusion of the last peace: a period in which we had been enabled to sustain the burden of three very expensive wars from the increase of our commerce.

The most flourishing period of commerce which this country had ever known, was about the year 1750;—we had during other periods larger exports, but the balance of trade in our favour was then at the highest; it amounted to near five millions and an half; but, considering every circumstance, it would not be accurate to assume more than four millions as our annual balance from the year 1740, to the conclusion of the last peace. This, therefore, being considered as the yearly average of foreign trade in our favour, it was necessary to enquire from what countries this balance was drawn.

About the year 1745, our trade with Holland was at its height; it then gave us a balance of near two millions a year, and though it is not now so great as it formerly was, it is still the greatest we have, and has for the last forty years produced an annual gain of about 1,400,000*l.*

Our trade with Germany is the next in importance, both with respect to its stability and extent, to our trade with Holland. This trade has not been subject to any great fluctuation from the beginning of the century; we have from that time cleared from it about 800,000*l.* and for the last forty or fifty years above 700,000*l.* a year.

After Holland and Germany, our next most beneficial trade was with Flanders. This trade was not great in the beginning of the century:—since the year 1740, it might be estimated at 600,000*l.* per annum;—since the year 1770, it had been on an average 800,000*l.* and in 1785, it was within fifty thousand pounds of a million in our favour.

The balance of trade with Portugal had been, at an average, for thirty years previous to the peace in 1763, 800,000*l.*: for the year 1740 to the present time, it had amounted to above 400,000*l.* a year.

Our trade with Spain for the last forty years had given us near 400,000*l.*; though, at present, exclusive of the Newfoundland fish, it did not much exceed 150,000*l.* per annum. With North America, there had been a balance in our favour since the year 1740 of near 500,000*l.* per annum.

In this account Ireland is omitted, as on account of the different modes of valuing her linens in the English and Irish Custom-house, there is a diversity of opinion as to the balance. Our trade to Africa, as well as several other sources of profitable commerce are also omitted, being considered as supplies to the drain which the nation experiences in its trade with Russia, Sweden, Turkey, &c. with which countries, though the trade is beneficial on account of importing raw materials and exporting manufactures, the balance is nevertheless against us.

From this statement, the ancient channels appear, in which our commerce has flowed for upwards of half a century, with uninterrupted success. Hitherto we have greatly prospered in our commerce, without having had French markets open to us, or having had our markets open to them; and though it could not be possibly asserted, that this mutual interdiction of commerce had been the cause of our prosperity, yet, as we had prospered, and did prosper without an open trade with France, it was imprudent to adopt a change of system, and for speculative benefits to risk real advantages. If, during the last five years, our commerce had been stationary or encreasing, where was the wisdom of interrupting its course by new arrangements? Why should it not be left to its own successful operation? If it had diminished, why should we risk its further diminution by opening a trade with France. It must have been in

that

1787 that case, from her rivalry in foreign markets, that our export trade had decreased; and if she had driven us out of foreign markets, what chance could we have of meeting her in her own? It was therefore highly dangerous and impolitic to abandon a commercial system by which we had risen to our present height in the scale of nations, and to adopt one in its place which our ancestors, from long experience had reprobated, as detrimental to the kingdom, was an unwise measure, and not to be justified, except by a change in the relative situations of Great Britain and France; the certainty of which change having taken place since the time of Charles the Second, had by no means been proved.

But descending from a general view of this great object, to the individual evils which were supposed to result from it, it was contended, in the first place, that our woollen manufacture would be injured by this treaty. Though it might be said, with truth, that we had opened to ourselves a market containing twenty-four millions of people, while France had only obtained a market of eight millions, yet no right estimate could be made on such a scale of computation. The advantages were rather to be estimated from the consumption of the nation's produce. The raw material, were it grown in the country, and then manufactured, was certainly the estimate of one nation's profit with another in a commercial intercourse. As far, therefore, as the woollen articles we might export to France, by virtue of this treaty, were composed of English wool, we should clearly have the benefit; but as we used at least 350,000l. worth of Spanish wool in our manufactures of woollen cloths, we clearly lost this advantage of the raw material: and what yet more increased our loss was, that Spain might give France an opportunity of importing their wool under the sanction of the treaty which restored both to France and Spain the privileges of the Family Compact; by which France would be able to manufacture this article, and afterwards serve us with the commodity which we before made ourselves: and as it was a species of cloth which our wool would not make, we should be obliged to purchase it from France, under the disadvantage of their having the labour, and we the loss of the artificers; and they the emoluments, and we the loss of the manufacture.—As to brandy, it was contended, that the treaty in question would, by no means, diminish the smuggling of that article into this country: 600,000 gallons were the estimate of the brandies imported; but of this quantity only 160,000 gallons were imported annually from France. It was therefore evident, that the rest must be chiefly imported from Spain, or some other countries on that part of the continent; consequently, to lower the duties of what was imported from France, could not increase the revenue; for, as what was imported from thence was evidently so disproportionate to what we imported from Spain and other countries, no increase of consumption in French brandies could possibly be expected.

The cotton manufactory was represented as being supported by the working a raw material of which no less a quantity than 17,000,000 of pounds of wool cotton was used; but of this quantity half was imported from France, Portugal, and the Brazils. Was not this, therefore, an alarming circumstance to a manufacture of such consequence as that of cotton, fustian, and velvet was to this country?—By this treaty, France herself might withhold two millions of the quantity we used, and keep it for her own rising manufactures: and if we were deprived of this raw material, one of our greatest manufactures would be destroyed, or, at least, transplanted to France. By this commercial treaty, it was argued, the Methuen treaty would be destroyed; as the principle of that treaty, namely, admitting the wines of Portugal one-third under those of France, would have no longer an existence, if the duties on French wines were reduced to the present duties on those of Portugal. It was true, that by lowering the duties
one-third

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1787 one-third on Portugal wines afterwards, the treaty might be renewed; but to be obliged, in consequence of this commercial treaty, to admit wines from France on the same terms as those of Portugal, would be evincing that we had abandoned that principle of policy which had been the cement of our alliance with that country. Would she not therefore consider, that the inducement no longer existed which had been the cause of our long and prosperous friendship? This would certainly be a great obstacle to her desires to enter into treaty with us again.—Besides, this commercial treaty with France must convince Portugal, that we had abandoned every principle of policy which had been her best defence against superior and neighbouring powers: that, therefore, which tempted her to court our protection by such an advantageous alliance, no longer existing, we could not expect that she would hasten to renew it; and, if she did, it might possibly be on terms much more advantageous to herself, and detrimental to us. If our luxury had converted wine into a necessary, that observation was particularly true of Portugal wines, which this country would never relinquish. The wines of Portugal, therefore, would continue to be imported; and if we did not pay for them with manufactures, we should pay for them with money. As to cotton, it was a raw material necessary to the support of our own industry; and, therefore, let the provocation on the part of Portugal be ever so great, would never be prohibited. It might be asked—If the Methuen treaty was discontinued, what was to compensate for the advantage which we lost from 150,000*l.* worth of salt fish sent annually to that country?—Where could we find a market for this invaluable article of our commerce?—If any where, we should expect to have it in France: for as we lose a benefit in consequence of giving them an advantage, we certainly have a right to expect a compensation from them. But France had a fishery of its own, and therefore must be the rival, instead of a customer of ours. It was evident, therefore, that in this instance, among others, a very material sacrifice was offered to the pretences of France; as we shall lose not only this sale of our produce, but also the proportionate opportunity of reaping those advantages from our fisheries which rendered them the most immediate nurseries of our seamen. The unalterable political enmity of France to Great Britain, and the impossibility of a solid good accruing to this country from the present, or any other commercial treaty, was also stated with much energy and confidence.

Such were the leading features of the arguments of those who supported, and those who opposed this important measure: but the nation at large confirmed, by its approbation, the conduct of government in this new political arrangement; and those sanguine and general expectations were formed of benefits resulting from it, which, we trust, will not be disappointed.

After very mature deliberations on this subject, both Houses of Parliament concurred in presenting the following address to the throne, on Thursday the 8th of March.

“ Most gracious Sovereign,

“ We, your Majesty’s most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, having taken into our most serious consideration the provisions contained in the treaty of navigation and commerce, concluded between your Majesty and the Most Christian King, beg leave to approach your Majesty with our serious and grateful acknowledgments for this additional proof of your Majesty’s constant attention to the welfare and happiness of your subjects. We shall proceed, with all proper expedition, on taking such steps as may be necessary for giving effect to a system so well calculated to promote a beneficial intercourse between Great Britain and France, and to give additional permanence to the blessings of peace.

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“ It is our firm persuasion that we cannot more effectually consult the general interest of our country, and the glory of your Majesty's reign, than by concurring in a measure which tends to the extension of trade, and the encouragement of industry and manufacture, the genuine sources of national wealth, and the surest foundation of the prosperity and happiness of your Majesty's dominions,” &c. &c.

The consolidation of the customs, a subject of very great importance to the commerce of this country, had been suggested to the attention of Parliament in the speech from the throne; and on the 26th of February, the Chancellor of the Exchequer opened this business to the House of Commons.

The increasing commerce of the country on the one hand, and the accumulated burthens on the other, the various additions which it had been necessary to make to the national income, by augmenting almost every subsisting duty, and the concomitant progression of the resources from whence that income was supplied, had so widely exceeded the expectations of our ancestors, and all the grounds of calculation on which they founded their system of finance, that the principles which they adopted, as suited to the narrow and confined scale of their public exigency and resources, were no longer applicable to the present state either of the trade or the revenue of the country. The consequences of thus retaining the old principle under the altered circumstances of the country, were, in several points of view, highly detrimental to the interests of the nation. In the first, and most material instance, they were productive of great inconvenience to individuals, as well to the merchants as to the officers of the customs, from the difficulty they occasioned in calculating and ascertaining the amount of the several sums to be paid by the former; and they were also, in some degree, attended with an actual loss to the revenue.

The first institution of the present subsisting duties of custom, was made by a statute of the 12th of Charles II. under the names of the tonnage and poundage: the first of those was an imposition on wines, laid on by the quantities imported; and the other was a proportional duty, calculated by value on all other articles. This last duty of poundage, was of a nature liable to great inaccuracy and irregularity; the value of the goods was ascertained by a book of rates, and computed on the quantities of the goods, either with respect to gage, to weight, or to *taille*: it was not a real value which was fixed upon them, so that the duty should bear a certain proportion to that real value, but an arbitrary value, perhaps, according to their actual standard at the time of imposing the duty; yet which must, from the natural fluctuations of trade and manufactures, be necessarily liable to many changes and alterations. The consequence of such a mode of taxation, when it was laid on by bulk, was, that in goods of one general description, the duty was always the same, whether upon the finer or the coarser manufacture; by which means it either operated as a prohibition to the latter, or was not at all felt by the former. There was, besides, another mode by which duties were imposed, and this by a proportion to the value on goods not rated, being the real and actual value of the goods as sworn to by the importer. This principle of taxation, when once adopted, was pursued in every fresh subsidy which had been granted for the payment of the interest of the several loans which were raised from time to time. In some instances it had operated by imposing additional duties, calculated by a per centage on the duties at present paid; in others, it laid a further duty on a different denomination of the commodity, either with respect to its value, its bulk, its weight, or its number; and proceeding gradually in this manner, from period to period, it had, at length, by the numerous additions so made, and the unbounded increase

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1787 increase of the articles of commerce, produced that mass of confusion which was, at this time, a subject of such universal complaint,—as productive of an infinity of inconvenience and delay whom it was the interest of the country to have as free as possible from all embarrassment,—the mercantile part of the nation.

In examining the nature and extent of those inconveniencies which arose from hence to the merchants, it appeared, that almost all the additional subsidies had been appropriated to some specific fund, for the payment of certain specific annuities, and that there must, therefore, be a separate calculation made at the custom-house for each of the different subsidies; and that, from the great complexity of the whole system, scarcely any one merchant could be acquainted, by any calculations of his own, with the exact amount of what he was to pay. It was, at the first view, perhaps, a ground for astonishment, that consequences seriously bad had not as yet resulted from this evil; but there were two causes by which that circumstance might be accounted for. The first was, that some persons, employed in the custom-house, whose whole time was dedicated to the business, and who of course were more conversant with it than any merchant could be supposed to be, had, for the ease and convenience of the traders and merchants, arranged a general view of the customs, in the form of a book of rates, which was, to a certain degree, found to be useful: but the utility arising from such a compilation, could not be of any long standing, when it was considered that there was, every session of Parliament, some alteration or another made in several of the duties, and each of those alterations, following the old principle, totally unhinged and overturned the use of every preceding printed calculation. But even if this disadvantage did not attend the custom-house officers book of rates, it yet tended only to relieve, in a very inconsiderable degree, the grievance complained of; for though the calculations contained in the book might have been never so accurate, nevertheless the merchant could not go to the custom-house and enter his goods immediately, by paying down the sum stated in the book of rates, but must wait, as if such book never existed, until all the usual calculations on each subsidy had been made,—the several acts by which such subsidies had been granted having so directed: and thus, in point of time, nothing was saved by the merchant. The other cause, by which the inconvenience was in some degree obviated, was one, to which, for many good reasons, as speedy a conclusion should be made as possible. The officers of the customs having, from constant practice and experience, acquired a greater facility in making the necessary calculations than the merchant could be supposed to have done, were the only persons to whom the merchant could apply for assistance and direction. Thus the merchant was not only in a great degree left at the mercy of the officers, but the officers themselves, who were intended to be a check upon the merchants, were forced to become their agents: a proceeding repugnant to every principle of reason and policy. Nor were these abuses confined to the customs, they existed also, though not to the same extent, in the excise, and, in a certain degree, in another great branch of the revenue, the stamps.

The mode, therefore, by which it was now proposed to remedy this great abuse was, by abolishing all the duties which now subsisted in this confused and complex manner, and to substitute in their stead one single duty on each article, amounting as nearly as possible to the aggregate of all the various subsidies already paid; only in general where a fraction was found in any of the sums, to charge the fraction for the nearest integral number, usually taking the higher, rather than the lower. To this rise in the duties there could be no objection, as it would annihilate all the confusion consequent on fractions; for although the advance from fractions to the integer, would produce an increase in the revenue to the amount of 20,000l.

1787 per annum, such an additional burthen would be most amply compensated by the great relief which the merchant would experience from the whole of the plan. Besides, there would still be some diminution of revenue in certain branches of it, where it might be found expedient to substitute the lower for the higher integral numbers, instead of the fraction.

The plan not only regarded the convenience of the merchant and the officers of the custom-house, but also greatly promoted the revenue itself, by freeing it from the clogs and fetters with which it was loaded, and changing the obscurity under which it now laboured, to forms so clear and distinct, that no mistake or error could possibly take place in any future inquiries which might be made upon the subject.

It may not also be improper to mention, that many of the subsidies which it was proposed to abolish, were particularly appropriated to the payment of certain specified annuitants, and as some of the annuitants were entitled to a valuable priority of payment, it was doubted whether such right of priority might not be infringed, by abolishing those funds from which such prior payments were to issue, and consolidating them all into one general mass. But this valuable priority was guarded from all danger, as the plan would leave it at the option of all persons enjoying such right of priority to continue in possession of it, or relinquish it as they might think proper.

This priority of payment arose from the terms of the several loans, by which certain funds were raised for the payment of the interest of such loans, and the surplusses of those funds to go to the aggregate fund, out of which aggregate fund other annuities were to be paid. The right of priority, therefore, might as well be maintained by paying them all out of one general fund, as by paying, first, one set of annuitants out of several funds, and the remaining annuitants out of the surplusses of those funds; provided that, out of that general fund, the first payments are actually made to those annuitants entitled to that priority. By such an arrangement, no injury could possibly arise to the public credit, and no real benefit resulted to those who enjoyed the right of prior payment, the resources of the country being equally bound for the payment of the whole, and the payments already made to the annuitants were not paid out of the respective funds appropriated to the different annuities, but the whole of that business is conducted at the Bank, nearly in the same manner as it would be when the whole of the revenue was consolidated into one general fund.

The state certainly has a right, consistent with its good faith to its creditors, to make such alterations in the nature of its securities, as it should see to be convenient and necessary; provided that, in every such alteration, it takes care to substitute such a security, which should be substantially equivalent to that which was so changed. There could, therefore, be no objection, on the ground of public faith, to the system which was now proposed, as not only all the funds then consolidated were to become chargeable with the public debt, but that every other resource of the country, of every description whatever, should be collateral security for the payment of those debts;—even the aids of the current year. But notwithstanding the undoubted right of the legislature to change the mode of its own securities, it certainly ought not to be done, if it could be possibly avoided, without the consent of the several creditors, which, indeed, it has been the constant practice of Parliament to take, whenever it proceeded upon any such measure. In the present case, the consent was to be taken by allowing a proper time for the public creditors to make their objections, and, if in that time none were made, to construe their silence into acquiescence. As to the funds, it did not appear that any of them could possibly be affected in any disadvantageous manner, by the new modification. Such appear to

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1787 have been the grounds on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a motion for a preliminary resolution to the following purport:—That all duties of customs, excise, and certain duties of stamps, do cease and determine, and that other duties be substituted in their stead. In the motion were included certain specific exceptions, as the duties on malt, mum, cyder, perry, &c.

The introduction of this measure occasioned no debate. The object was so plainly advantageous as to command the concurrence of every description of Members in the House of Commons. The only resolution in the Committee of the whole House appointed to take into consideration the consolidation of the customs, that occasioned any debate, was moved by Mr. Pitt on the thirteenth of March, and had for its object the reduction of the duties upon brandies to the rate of five shillings per gallon. This, as the Minister observed, was two shillings lower than the standard provided for by the treaty; and he rested the policy of the measure on its tendency to counteract and overthrow the contraband trade. The difference between the quantity of brandy smuggled, and that which had been legally imported was prodigious; the former amounting to about 4,000,000 of gallons, while the latter did not exceed 6 or 700,000. If, indeed, the whole of the intended reduction of duty were to operate as an uncompensated reduction upon the revenue, the loss would, indeed, amount to the sum of 200,000*l.* per annum: but an increased importation of 800,000 gallons, deducted from the 4,000,000, at this time illegally imported, would form a sufficient compensation,—and there was every reason to expect much more. Samples of the different sorts of brandy, collected at the places of importation, with an account of their first cost; and these samples having been expressly examined by very principal merchants, it was their opinion that, in almost every different sort, the fair trader, under the proposed reduction, would be absolutely able to undersell the smuggler. An additional regulation was also proposed to be adopted, which would secure a considerable part of the necessary compensation, and not leave the whole to an unavoidable risk; it would also operate as an answer to another objectionable consequence, the introducing a more extended use of spirituous liquors among the common people, and this was—to raise the price of licences to the retailers of such liquors. In answer to those observations it was said, that fatal consequences would result from the proposed regulation to the importation of rum from the West India Islands, and that, according to the unanimous opinion of a large body of planters and merchants, our rums would not be able to stand a competition with the brandies, and must be totally driven out of the market. It was also lamented, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not been able to obtain the accounts of the quantity of brandy smuggled into this country, before the conclusion of the treaty, as it was suggested that France would certainly have given an equivalent for the benefit of having her brandies imported into Great Britain at so low a duty. This resolution, however, like all the others in the system of consolidation, was carried without a division.

Mr. Pitt having moved for leave to bring in a bill, pursuant to the resolutions relative to the French treaty and the consolidated duties, Sir Grey Cooper objected to the proposition. He said, that if it had not been for the fortuitous and singular circumstances in the same session, and almost at the same time, when a great innovation in the commerce of the kingdom was proposed, the bill, which had long been in contemplation for simplifying the duties of customs, had been brought forward, there must necessarily have been a separate and distinct bill for rendering effectual the tariff of the French treaty: for this and other reasons, he suggested an amendment to Mr. Pitt's motion, which was to insert the words, “a bill or bills,” and a mo-

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1787 tion was made to that effect. The Minister argued the impracticability of complying with the motion, since, if the plans were introduced separately, one of two things must take place;—either the treaty must have the priority, and, in that case, there must be a considerable reduction in the duties on French commodities, duties already appropriated to particular funds for paying the interest of the public debt, without the introduction of an equivalent, and, of consequence, the funds must be diminished; or, on the other hand, the plan of consolidation must be first carried into execution, and the duties on French commodities must necessarily be regulated before the necessity of such regulations had been recognized by Parliament. The proposed amendment was lost on a division.

Another point was strongly and repeatedly urged by Sir Grey Cooper, though it was not so generally espoused: this was the consideration, that though the committee for forming these resolutions had received no instruction but the general one, for considering so much of the King's speech as related to the simplifying the public accounts, yet, in reality, they had imposed new taxes by more than 100 resolutions upon timber for ship-building, deals, battens and staves; and they had even been made the vehicle for reducing the duty on Portugal wine. He therefore moved, that the resolutions be recommitted, and that suitable instructions be given to the committee for their adoption. The Chancellor of the Exchequer asserted, that it was absurd to imagine, that the resolution which had led to the forming of the committee, had intended nothing more than a simplification of the customs, by advancing the amount of the several duties, in which there appeared fractional numbers, since this alone, instead of simplifying, would have proved the means of additional confusion in the transactions of the revenue. This motion was also negatived.

In one of the later stages of the bill, the question was taken up respecting the duty on French lawns: when it was asserted, that foreign thread and bone lace might be imported on a duty of 17s. 7d. per dozen yards, which, on laces of 2d. or 3d. a yard, (the only thread laces imported in any quantity) was equivalent to a prohibition; consequently no duty on them was collected, and the whole was smuggled. As to the valuable thread laces, such as point, &c. the same duty erred on the other side, being totally disproportionate to the value. With respect to foreign silk laces, they were absolutely prohibited, and could not be imported from any nation whatever. These silk laces, it was said, made seven-tenths, at least, of the consumption of the British dominions in that article to the amount of 300,000l. per annum, and that the duty lost to our revenue, was given to the French smugglers. To these objections the Minister replied, that he was thoroughly grounded in his opinion, that the principle of the tax on lace, was different from that which had been voted upon cambric; for, in fact, this last was calculated upon the price and not upon the value, exactly in the same manner as the tax upon French lace.—He admitted that the difference between the value of the several sorts of laces was greater than that between the various sorts of cambrics, so that the proportion of duty paid by the higher priced laces, was lower in comparison with that paid by the inferior kinds, than the same proportion in the article of cambrics; but still it was evident, that the principle of both the taxes was the same, and it had been a practice, followed in many taxes, to impose them on the quantity instead of the value of the article. Whether the tax upon lace was or was not imposed in the most prudent and politic mode, was a subject for separate discussion. The assertion, that French lace still continued to be prohibited, was a mistake in point of fact; for it was provided for in the treaty, that all articles not enumerated in the tariff should be imported from France into this country, as from the most favoured nation. The consequence of which was, that
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1787 lace, not being included in the tariff, was no longer subject to the prohibition. These observations could only apply to thread lace, for as to silk lace, every sort and description of it still continued actually and expressly prohibited by the treaty. But if it should be found expedient at any future period, there was not any thing in the treaty which could, in any degree, prevent their being admitted hereafter under any duty which might be thought adviseable.

The consolidation act did not pass the House of Lords without exciting some opposition, but it was not sufficient to prevent its finally reaching the throne.

The laws of imprisonment for debt have long been acknowledged to be a disgrace to the legislative code of this country. As it very seldom happens, that an error which has crept into any government, is immediately remedied,—the introduction of a permanent improvement in our laws upon this subject has long been procrastinated, and resort has been had to various expedients for diminishing the present evil. One of these expedients has been what are called Acts of Grace, originating in the clemency of the sovereign on his accession to the throne;—a second expedient has been what is denominated the Lords Act, which is a kind of perpetual law, provided for the compounding the affairs of debtors whose debts do not exceed 200*l.*: a farther expedient is, that of Acts of Insolvency, which have been usually passed at periods of various distance, when the prisons of the kingdom have been so full, as to be supposed to render them absolutely necessary.

The last insolvent act was occasioned by the riots in 1780, and in several successive years attempts have been made, but in vain, to clear the prisons by the same means. In this year a bill of a similar nature was introduced into Parliament, passed the House of Commons, and was read a second time in the House of Lords on the 22d of May. The Duke of Norfolk stated, on the occasion, that there were above 3,000 debtors confined in the different prisons of the kingdom, the loss of whose labour was a material injury to the public. The object of the bill, his Grace added, was to set the unfortunate, and not the fraudulent, debtors at liberty; the bill, therefore, contained several restraining clauses for the prevention of fraud and imposition; but if any further restraints should be thought necessary, they might be added, and the bill thereby so modified as to answer these purposes which were the real object of it.

Lord Rawdon urged in favour of the bill, that originally so much attention had been given to the usefulness of each individual to his family and the public, that whenever his property was seized, his utensils of agriculture were deemed unattachable. The proceeding by distraint was the first process, and that was multiplied till all the property of the debtor was seized.—Afterwards, the apprehending the person of the debtor, in order to oblige him to give an account of his effects, was added; but it was not till the time of Charles the Second that, in consequence of the alteration of tenures, the present mode of retaining the debtor in prison for a long and uncertain period, at the sole mercy of his creditor, was added.

The Lord Chancellor Thurlow, by whose interposition the bill had been rejected in several preceding instances, delivered his sentiments in a very full and explicit manner, and as it is an opinion proceeding from such high authority, we shall give the substance of it.

His lordship entered at large into the argument of the inexpediency of acts of insolvency, as well as the manifest injustice of breaking in upon that power of coercion of payment, with which the law of this country had armed the creditor for the security of his property. The general idea, that humanity required the intervention of the legislature between the debtor and the creditor, was a false notion, founded in error, and dangerous in practice. He who had frequent opportunities of knowing and witnessing the temper of creditors, seldom found cause
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1787 of complaint on the ground of their severity; but, on the contrary, the lenity and kindness of the collective body of creditors who daily came before him, were uniformly great, warm, and abundant. In aid of his own observation, he mentioned a great law authority for declaring, that for every twenty debtors there scarcely appeared in the courts of law one cruel creditor.—It had been said, that the laws respecting debtor and creditor, in mesne process, and in execution, stood in need of revision, with a view to alteration and amendment,—and there was some foundation for the assertion, and he should be willing to pay every possible attention in his power to the consideration of so weighty and important a subject; but, in the mean time, he earnestly reprobated such breaches of faith with creditors as occasional bills of insolvency. With regard to the argument, that there were 3,000 debtors in different gaols, the number of actual prisoners on mesne process, or in execution, was one thing; the number of prisoners, including their families and attendants, was another; and the number of prisoners on the speculation of an insolvent bill, was a third. A much greater evil than the loss of liberty, was the dissipation and corruption that prevailed in all our prisons, and to that object it would be much better to direct the spirit of reformation, than to defrauding the creditor of his chance of recovering his property by letting loose his debtor, and taking from him the hopes of payment.

The Lord Chancellor made the distinction between debtors in respect to trade, and debtors of another description. He spoke of the ancient notion under which a tradesman, who could not pay his debts, was punishable; afterwards, as the principles of trade became better understood, more enlarged ideas prevailed, and the bankrupt laws were instituted for the relief of those traders who had, through unforeseen misfortunes, incurred debts to a greater amount than their capitals and the sums owing to them would satisfy. These laws had ever been a generous provision, as well as a wise protection, for cases of that description. On the other hand, those who ran in debt, knowing that they never should be able to pay, were certainly fit subjects of that severity which the law, as it stood, empowered their creditors to exercise towards them. The present bill made no sort of distinction between the two descriptions, but provided equally for the liberation of all debtors of almost every description; and consequently, being indiscriminate in its object, could not possibly be just. He stated the history of the Lords act, shewing, that it went on the principle of the *Cessio Bonorum* in use in Scotland, and he drew an argument from thence against the proposed bill of insolvency. He proceeded also to state some ideas which he had formed on the alterations that might be desirable in the laws of imprisonment in this country, and which had arisen from communications he had received on the subject from Mr. Howard, so well known for the new path of humanity in which he has trod. His lordship stated, with much approbation, that part of the Scotch law which punished with more than ordinary severity, those who were concerned in advising a tradesman to fraudulent bankruptcy, and aiding and assisting him in such an illegal act. Such were the opinions of the learned Lord on the occasion, which not only prevailed to the throwing out the bill in question, but will, in all probability, prevent any measure of a similar nature from succeeding at any future period.

With respect to the affairs of the East India Company, little was done in the course of the present year. A petition was presented to the House of Commons on the first of February from the British inhabitants of Fort William in Bengal, complaining of the oppressive nature of Mr. Pitt's East India bill of 1784, and praying that certain clauses of that bill might be repealed. This petition appears to have been a partial business, and had been signed by the far greater part of those whose names were annexed to it, from entreaty and misrepresentation;

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1787 nay, it was positively asserted in the debate on the subject, that out of 800 persons signing the petition, there were 700 soldiers with arms in their hands. Counsel, however, were admitted on the part of the petitioners; but Mr. Dempster having thought proper to postpone his motion for leave to bring in a bill to explain and amend the India bills of 1784 and 1786,—on a motion from Mr. Pitt the committee for hearing the Bengal petition was dissolved. On the nineteenth of March, Mr. Dempster brought forward his motions, but without success,—they were negatived by very great majorities.

In the parliamentary sessions of this year, the charges against Mr. Hastings were renewed. The charge against that gentleman, on the ground of the Rohilla war, received a negative by a considerable majority,—but an almost equal majority confirmed that which respected his expulsion of the Rajah of Benares. In a regular course of proceeding, the several charges respecting the Nabob of Farruckabad—the contracts—Fizulla Khan—the presents—the revenues and misdemeanors in Oude were voted. On the 25th of April, it was reported from the committee to whom it had been referred to prepare the articles of impeachment, that they had completed several of them; on the ninth of May this report was taken into consideration, and on the day following it was voted that Mr. Hastings be impeached, and Mr. Edmund Burke was directed to impeach him at the bar of the House of Lords, which he immediately did with the usual ceremony. On the thirtieth of May, the King put an end to the session of Parliament by a speech from the throne. He applauded the assiduity of Parliament, and thanked them for their proofs of affection for him, his family and government. He spoke of the general tranquillity of Europe, and lamented the dissensions which unhappily prevailed among the States of the United Provinces. He reflected with peculiar pleasure on the measures they had taken, with regard to the reduction of the national debt, the treaty of commerce with the most Christian King, and the simplifying the accounts in the various branches of the revenue.

The following Convention between his Britannic Majesty and the Most Christian King, was signed at Versailles the 15th of January in this year.

“ In conformity to the 6th and 43d articles of the treaty of Navigation and Commerce, signed at Versailles the 26th of September, 1786, in order to explain and settle certain points which had been reserved.

“ Article I. Their Majesties having stipulated, in the 6th article of the said treaty, “ That the duties on hardware, cutlery, cabinet ware and turnery, and on all other works, both heavy and light, of iron, steel, copper, and brass, shall be classed; and that the highest duty shall not exceed ten per cent. *ad valorem*,” it is agreed, that cabinet ware and turnery, and every thing that is included under those denominations, as also musical instruments, shall pay ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ All articles made of iron or steel, pure or mixed, or worked or mounted with other substances, not exceeding in value sixty livres tournois, or fifty shillings per quintal, shall pay only five per cent. *ad valorem*; and all other wares, as buttons, buckles, knives, scissars, and all the different articles included under the description of hardware and cutlery, as also all other works of iron, steel, copper and brass, pure or mixed, or worked or mounted with other substances, shall pay ten per cent. *ad valorem*.

“ If either of the two sovereigns should think proper to admit the said articles, or only some of them, from any other nation, by reason of their utility, at a lower duty, the subjects of the other

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1787 other sovereign shall be allowed to participate in such diminution, in order that no foreign nation may enjoy in this respect any preference to their disadvantage.

“ The works of iron, steel, copper and brass above-mentioned, are not to be understood to extend to bar iron or pig iron, or in general to any kind of iron, steel, copper or brass in the state of the raw material.

“ II. Their Majesties having also stipulated, in the sixth article, “ That for the better securing the due collection of the duties payable *ad valorem*, which are specified in the tariff, they will concert with each other the form of the declarations to be made, and the proper means of preventing fraud with respect to the real value of the goods and merchandizes,” it is agreed that each declaration shall be given in writing, signed by the merchant, owner, or factor, who answers for the merchandizes at their entry; which declaration shall contain an exact list of the said merchandizes, and of their packages, of the marks, numbers and cyphers, and of the contents of each bale or case, and shall certify that they are of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the kingdom from whence they are imported, and shall also express the true and real value of the said merchandizes, in order that the duties may be paid in consequence thereof. That the officers of the custom-house, where the declaration may be made, shall be at liberty to make such examination as they shall think proper of the said merchandizes, upon their being landed, not only for the purpose of verifying the facts alledged in the said declaration, that the merchandizes are of the produce of the country therein-mentioned, and that the statement of their value and quantity is exact, but also for that of preventing the clandestine introduction of other merchandizes in the same bales or cases: provided nevertheless, that such examinations shall be made with every possible attention to the convenience of the traders, and to the preservation of the said merchandizes.

“ In case the officers of the customs should not be satisfied with the valuation made of the merchandizes in the said declaration, they shall be at liberty, with the consent of the principal officers of the customs at the port, or of such other officer as shall be appointed for that purpose, to take the said merchandizes according to the valuation made by the declaration, allowing to the merchant or owner an overplus of ten per cent. and refunding to him the duties he may have paid for the said merchandizes. In which case, the whole amount shall be paid without delay, by the custom-house of the port, if the value of the effects in question shall not exceed 480 livres tournois, or 20l. sterling; and within fifteen days, at latest, if their value shall exceed that sum.

“ And if doubts should happen to arise, either respecting the value of the said merchandizes, or the country of which they are the produce, the officers of the customs at the port shall come to a determination thereupon, with all possible dispatch, and no greater space of time shall be employed for that purpose, in any case, than eight days, in the ports where the officers who have the principal direction of the customs reside, and fifteen days in any other port whatsoever.

“ It is supposed and understood, that the merchandizes admitted by the present treaty, shall be respectively of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the dominions of the two sovereigns in Europe.

“ To oblige the traders to be accurate in the declarations required by the present article, as also to prevent any doubt that might arise on that part of the tenth article of the said treaty, which provides, that if any of the effects are omitted in the declaration delivered by the master of the ship, they shall not be liable to confiscation, unless there be a manifest appearance of fraud;

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1787 fraud; it is understood, that in such case, the said effects shall be confiscated, unless satisfactory proof be given to the officers of the customs that there was not any intention of fraud.

“ III. In order to prevent the introduction of calicoes manufactured in the East Indies, or in other countries, as if they had been manufactured in the respective dominions of the two sovereigns in Europe, it is agreed, that the calicoes manufactured in the said dominions, for exportation from one country to the other respectively, shall have at the two ends of each piece a particular mark, woven in the piece, to be settled in concert by the two governments; of which mark the respective governments shall give nine months previous notice to the manufacturers; and the said mark shall be altered from time to time, as the case may require. It is further agreed, that until the said precaution can be put in execution, the said calicoes mutually exported, shall be accompanied by a certificate of the officers of the customs, or of such other officer as shall be appointed for that purpose, declaring that they were fabricated in the country from whence they were exported, and also that they are furnished with the marks already prescribed in the respective countries, to distinguish such calicoes from those which come from other countries.

“ IV. In settling the duties upon cambricks and lawns, it is understood that the breadth should not exceed, for the cambricks, seven-eighths of a yard, English measure, (about three-quarters of an ell of France) and for the lawns, one yard and a quarter, English measure (one ell of France); and if any shall hereafter be made of a greater breadth than what is above mentioned, they shall pay a duty of ten per cent *ad valorem*.

“ V. It is also agreed, that the stipulations in the eighteenth article of the treaty, shall not be construed to derogate from the privileges, regulations, and usages already established in the cities or ports of the respective dominions of the two sovereigns: and further, that the twenty-fifth article of the said treaty shall be construed to relate only to ships suspected of carrying, in time of war, to the enemies of either of the high contracting parties, any prohibited articles, denominated contraband: and the said article is not to hinder the examinations of the officers of the customs, for the purpose of preventing illicit trade in the respective dominions.

“ VI. Their Majesties having stipulated, by the forty-third article of the said treaty, that the nature and extent of the functions of the consuls should be determined, “ and that a convention relative to this point, should be concluded immediately after the signature of the “ present treaty, of which it should be deemed to constitute a part,” it is agreed, that the said ulterior convention shall be settled within the space of two months; and that, in the mean time, the consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls, shall conform to the usages which are now observed relative to the consulship, in the respective dominions of the two sovereigns; and that they shall enjoy all the privileges, rights, and immunities belonging to their office, and which are allowed to the consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls of the most favoured nation.

“ VII. It shall be lawful for the subjects of his Britannic Majesty to prosecute their debtors in France, for the recovery of debts contracted in the dominions of his said Majesty, or elsewhere in Europe, and there to bring actions against them, in conformity to the practice of law in use in the kingdom: provided that there shall be the like usage in favour of French subjects in the European dominions of his Britannic Majesty.” &c. &c.

Difficulties having arisen in the East Indies relative to the meaning and extent of the thirteenth article of the treaty of peace, signed at Versailles, September 3, 1783; their Britannic and Most Christian Majesties, with a view to remove every cause of dispute between their re-

1787 spective subjects in that part of the world, thought proper to make the following Convention, which was signed at Versailles, August 31, 1787 :—

“ Article I. His Britannic Majesty again engages, “ to take such measures as shall be in “ his power, for securing to the subjects of France a safe, free, and independent trade, such “ as was carried on by the French East India Company,” and as it is explained in the following articles, “ whether they exercise it individually, or as a company ;” as well in the Nabobship of Arcot, and the countries of Madura and Tanjore, as in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixá, in the northern Circars, and in general in all the British possessions on the coasts of Orixá, Coromandel, and Malabar.

“ II. In order to prevent all abuses in the importation of salt, it is agreed, that the French shall not import annually into Bengal more than two hundred thousand maunds of salt: the said salt shall be delivered at a place of deposit appointed for that purpose by the government of Bengal, and to officers of the said government, at the fixed price of one hundred and twenty rupees for every hundred maunds.

“ III. There shall be delivered annually for the French commerce, upon the demand of the French agent in Bengal, eighteen thousand maunds of saltpetre, and three hundred chests of opium, at the price established before the late war.

“ IV. The ancient factories, namely, Chandernagore, Cossimbuzar, Decca, Jugdea, Balasore, and Patna, with the territories belonging to the said factories, shall be under the protection of the French flag, and subject to the French jurisdiction.

“ V. France shall also have possession of the ancient houses of Soopore, Keerpoy, Carni-cole, Mohumpore, Serampore, and Chittagong ; as well as the dependencies on Soopore, viz. Gantjurat, Alsende, Chintzabad, Patorcha, Monepore, and Dolobody ; and shall further have the faculty of establishing new houses of commerce ; but none of the said houses shall have any jurisdiction, or any exemption from the ordinary justice of the country exercised over British subjects.

“ VI. His Britannic Majesty engages to take measures to secure to French subjects, without the limits of the ancient factories above-mentioned, an exact and impartial administration of justice in all matters concerning their persons or properties, or the carrying on their trade, in the same manner, and as effectually, as to his own subjects.

“ VII. All Europeans, as well as natives, against whom judicial proceedings shall be instituted, within the limits of the ancient factories above-mentioned, for offences committed, or debts contracted, within the said limits, and who shall take refuge out of the same, shall be delivered up to the chiefs of the said factories ; and all Europeans, or others whatsoever, against whom judicial proceedings shall be instituted, within the said limits, and who shall take refuge within the same, shall be delivered up by the chiefs of the said factories, upon demand being made of them by the governor of the country.

“ VIII. All the subjects of either nations respectively, who shall take refuge within the factories of the other, shall be delivered up on each side, upon demand being made of them.

“ IX. The factory of Yanam, with its dependencies, having, in pursuance of the said treaty of peace, been delivered up by Mr. William Hamilton, on the part of his Britannic Majesty, to Mr. Peter Paul Martin, on the part of his Most Christian Majesty, the restitution thereof is confirmed by the present convention, in the terms of the instrument bearing date the seventh of March, 1785, and signed by Mess. Hamilton and Martin, &c. &c.”

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1787*Copy of the French King's Arret, dated the 6th of May, respecting the Entry of English Merchandize.*

“ The King having fixed the 10th of this month for the execution of the Treaty of Commerce concluded with the King of Great Britain, his Majesty, in order to facilitate the execution of this treaty, and the connection of commerce which will result between the two nations, has determined to open particular offices, for the entry of gauzes, callicoes, linen, and cotton cloths, and other merchandizes, which coming from the manufactories of England and other parts, are to be admitted to the benefit of the treaty, leaving the forming offices open, which anciently subsisted, for the entry of merchandize of the same species, which are brought from other countries, and which are to remain subjected to the highest duties. His Majesty has judged it equally proper, to fix, as nearly as possible, the duty by weight on all merchandize of an equal valuation, to prevent the arbitrary estimation of their value; and, in short, to fix to the said English stuffs and merchandize a particular mark, to avoid all confusion between the said merchandizes, and those which may be brought into the kingdom to defraud the revenue, as well as those which may be seized and confiscated, or those which, being foreign cloths, are yet subject to the right of circulation, after having paid the rights of entry into the kingdom. To provide for all which, the King, being in his Council, hath ordained, and doth ordain as follows:

“ Article I. The goods and merchandize of Great Britain, which are permitted to be introduced by the treaty of commerce, concluded between his Most Christian Majesty and the King of Great Britain, are to be admitted, on the 10th of this month, to enter into this kingdom by the way or offices of Calais, Boulogne, Havre, Rouen, St. Malo, Nantes, Rochelle, Bourdeaux, and Cette, at the risk of their proprietors or representatives, justifying by certificates of the judges or officers of the customs, that the said goods or merchandize are the growth or fabric of England; and also, that by the letters or charter-parties, they are really imported from one of the ports of Great Britain. The certificates which are delivered to prove the origin of the cotton manufactured in England, are to mention the marks affixed to the same, to prevent their being confounded with those fabricated in the East Indies, or in other foreign parts.

“ II. The duties shall be paid according to the tariff annexed to this arret, for the cloaths, stuffs, and hosiery of wool or cotton; and they shall be liquidated and received after the rate of the known and true value which other merchandizes may pay, whose valuation, either in weight or by piece, is not yet determined; the whole conformable to the 6th article of the treaty of commerce, and to the 1st article of the convention of the 15th of January last.

“ III. The declaration of merchandizes which are to be rated, must be made in writing, and signed by the captains of the ships, commissioners, or merchants; who are to mention the quantity, quality, and value of the different species of merchandize that is contained in each bale, chest, or cask. And in cases where the officers judge that the declarations are under the value of the merchandize, they may detain the same, on paying to the proprietor the price of the said merchandize, agreeable to the value which he has declared, and a tenth upward, conformable to the 2d article of the convention, dated 15th January last.

“ IV. The list of merchandizes which are fixed to pay by weight, according to the quantity of each of their species, by the treaty of commerce, by the convention of the 15th of January last, or by the tariff annexed to the present arret, must specify their different qualities, and mention their weight; and in cases where they do not specify the different sorts of merchan-

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1787 dize subjected to different duties, and contained in the same chests, bales, or casks, the duty shall be paid for all at the highest rate that any such part of the said merchandize shall be found subject to.

“ V. The cloths or stuffs of woollen or cotton, the cloths of hemp or flax, and the gauzes made of silk, are to receive on each piece, at one of the first offices described in the 1st article of this arret, or at the custom-house of Paris, a leaden mark, bearing on one side these words, “ stuffs or foreign cloths,” and on the other side, the name of the town where the mark shall have been fixed.

“ VI. The merchandizes, which in particular circumstances have not received the marks above-mentioned, must be sent to the first office on the frontier, under the great seal of the farmers, to be properly cleared.

“ VII. The cloths and stuffs of wool and cotton, which are not proved to be of the established manufactories in the states of his Britannic Majesty in Europe, are to continue subject to the same duties as fixed by the arret of the 3d of July 1762, for the woollen manufactories; by those of the 2d of May, 1773, for the cotton manufactories; by those of the 28th of October, 1781, for the hosiery manufactories; and to continue to submit to the payment of ten sous per livre on the said articles, and are only to be permitted to enter by the way of Calais, or St. Valery, conformable to the said arrets.

“ VIII. The stuffs and hosiery of woollen, the velvets and stuffs of cotton, and the gauzes which do not bear the marks of the national fabric, or of those prescribed in the 5th article of this arret; or by the ancient arrets and regulations for foreign merchandize, are to be accounted prohibited, and as such are to be seized by the Farmers General, who are to proceed to confiscation of them in the usual manner.

“ (Signed),

“ LE COMTE DE MONTMORIN.”

TARIFF of the Duties to be paid conformable to the first Article of the above Arret, on the Merchandizes hereafter named, in execution of the Treaty of Commerce concluded between France and England.

DENOMINATIONS.	Valuation.	Impositions agreed upon by the Treaty.	Quota of the Duty.	Additional Duty on the Cottons, Iron and Beer.	Total of the Duty to be paid per Quintal.
<i>Cotton Stuffs.</i>	<i>Livres.</i>		<i>Livres</i>	<i>Livres.</i>	<i>Livres.</i>
Muslinets, —	2000	} 12 per cent.	240	30	270
Fine white cloth, —	1500		180	30	210
Dimities, sattinet, velveret striped or ribbed, dimities knit ribbed,	1000		120	30	150
<i>Woollen Stuffs.</i>					
Kerfimere, or shalloon,	2000		240	Nothing.	240
Serge of sattin, or sattin turk, <i>sagatis ecrue</i> , striped flannels,	1350		162	Nothing.	162
Tammies, or coarse stuffs, everlasting, flannels, plain worsted stockings, and merchandize of the same nature, —	800		96	Nothing.	96

N. B. Goods at per Quintal.

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Particulars of the TARIFF or Rates of the Stamp Duty in France.

ADMIRALTY.

Price of Stamps.

For all orders and permissions granted by the Lord High Admiral, or his officers, and other matters concerning his jurisdiction; excepting such as are expedited *gratis*, and these only extending to all post-regulations and the unballasting of ships, — — — — —

1 livre.

For every bill of lading, — — — — —

5 sous.

For every statement of the crews delivered in by the commissioners, — — — — —

10 ditto.

POLICE.

Safe-conducts, each — — — — —

12 livres.

Letters of state, respites, and superfedings for debtors, each — — — — —

10 ditto.

For passports granted to leave the kingdom, each — — — — —

24 ditto.

LAW.

For every brief, consultation, and other printed papers, referring to actions at law, or to any object whatever, as well as for the proofs thereunto annexed, for each printed sheet of four pages in quarto, — — — — —

1 liard, (farthing).

For the same in folio, — — — — —

2 ditto.

Petitions and memorials addressed to the Council, &c. according to the size of the paper.

TRADE.

For each and every bill of exchange, draft, or rescription, both to order and at a date; also drafts on bankers, even such as come from abroad, up to two thousand livres, — — — — —

15 sous.

If exceeding the aforefaid sum, to any amount, — — — — —

30 ditto.

For every receipt in full for any sum above twenty-four livres, without exception of any person, — — — — —

5 ditto.

For goods sold by auction above the aforefaid sum up to 1000 livres, — — — — —

10 ditto.

From one to two thousand, — — — — —

1 livre.

From two to four, — — — — —

2 ditto.

And from four to any sum, — — — — —

3 ditto.

N. B. The creditor to bear the expence of the stamps.

For all private signature lease indentures, contracts, bargains, navy, and other insurance bills of lading by land or water, accounts kept by merchants, change brokers, accounts of interchange of goods, balances struck and settled with bankers, bills of shipping either directly or by commission, accounts of guardianship, whether brought in by private persons, corporations, or other collective bodies, certificates, bills delivered by tradesmen, artificers and others; and finally, all written private acts, be the persons who they may, without exception, for every sheet, half-sheet, quarter-sheet, never exceeding the dimensions now in use, — — — — —

5 sous.

For each certifying ticket to be left at the turnpikes, — — — — —

2 ditto.

For every acknowledgment, receipt, or discharge from the *mont de pieté*, or public pawn, — — — — —

5 ditto.

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The following is an accurate account of British and Irish manufactures and produce, entered outward at the port of London for France, for one week preceding the 25th of August :

Thirty-two pieces of fine broad cloth, 35 ditto of second cloth, 1650 ditto of worsted stuffs, 1400 yards of flannel, 280 double pieces of baize, 1837 single pieces of baize, 400 dozen of worsted hose, 400 pair of blankets, 10 pieces of kerseymere, 150 tons weight of haberdashery, 127 pounds weight of manufactured silk in gauze, 4 pounds weight of silk, inckle and gauze, 173 pieces of British linen, 100 pounds weight of wrought leather, 54 tons 1 cwt. of wrought iron, 11 tons 11 cwt. of wrought copper and plate, 50 ditto of pewter, 200 ounces of wrought silver plate, 226,000 pieces of glass and earthen ware, 20 tons of strong beer, 200 cwt of refined sugar, 16 coaches and chariots, 40 tons of British train oil, 5 tons of hops, 60 cwt. of allum, 88 tons of lead, and 5 cwt. of litharge of lead : with bath coating, blanketing, rugs, Irish linens, thread and cotton hose, worsted waistcoat and breeches pieces, Manchester cottons, velverets and muslins, millinery, fadlery, stationary, upholstery, household furniture, turnery, tin ware, musical and mathematical instruments ; the value of which goods being estimated at about 24,000l.

As it may with propriety be objected to the foregoing statement, that although goods to the above amount have been entered for exportation to France, yet merchants frequently enter larger quantities than are actually shipped, and a deduction ought therefore to be made from what appears on the entry : we will readily admit the fact, and deduct on that account one-third, which will certainly amount to more than what is termed the short shipping ; this will reduce the value of the merchandize really exported to 16,000l.

An account of the French manufactures and produce imported at the port of London during the same period.

Twenty-one tons 58 gallons of wine, 9025 gallons of brandy, 410 pieces of cambrics, 261 kid-skins, dressed, 1666 pieces of glass, 285 pounds of verdigrease, 4 gallons 1 quart of cordial water, 6 cwt. 1 qr. 15lb. of hard soap, 4 marble figures, 1 clock, 3 glass shades, 30 pieces of earthen ware, 1 violin, 1 chip hat, 5 whistles, 2 caps, 22lbs. of bound books ; with cock-tail feathers, artificial flowers, minerals, and hosiery ; the whole amounting to about 3000l.

Which estimate leaves a balance of trade in favour of Great Britain of 13,000l.

The following statement of the competition at this time existing between the calico and muslin manufactures of Great Britain, and those of the East India Company, will afford a very satisfactory insight into the trade of those important articles.

The facilities which the manufacturers of Great Britain had suddenly acquired, and the immense capitals which they have so recently laid out in expensive machinery, and great and heavy establishments for carrying on the cotton trade, are unparalleled in the annals of the world. One hundred and forty-three cotton mills are now built and in progress in Great Britain, of which nearly two-thirds have been erected within these five years. Besides these, there are above 20500 hand-mills or jennies for spinning the shute for the twisted yarn spun by the water mills.

Above a million of money was, within this time, sunk in mills, hand engines, and other machines, including the grounds and necessary buildings.

	£.	s.	d.
Expence of water mills, — — —	715,000	0	0
Ditto of hand jennies, houses, buildings, and auxiliary machinery, supposed at least, — — —	285,000	0	0
Total,	1,000,000	0	0
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A power is also created of working nearly two million of spindles; and men, women, and children are trained and training to this business, capable of carrying the cotton manufacture almost to any extent. The power of spindles now capable of being worked is estimated as follows:

In the water-mills,	— — — — —	286,000
In the jennies,	— — — — —	1,665,100
Total spindles,		<u>1,951,100</u>

In the branches applicable to muslin and calico, it is calculated that employment is given to 100,000 men and women, and at least 60,000 children; many of the latter having been taken from different parishes and hospitals in Great Britain.

The quantity of the raw material of cotton wool consumed in this manufacture, which did not amount to 6,000,000lb. in 1781, and was only about 11,000,000lb. four years ago, now extends to the enormous height of 22,000,000lb. and upwards; and the astonishing rapidity of this increase, is in some measure to be attributed to the extension of these branches to the goods of India, particularly the calicoes and muslins.

British calicoes were first made in Lancashire about the year 1772, but the progress was slow till within these last ten years: the quantity manufactured has since extended from about 50,000 to 1,000,000 of pieces now made in the course of a single year.

British muslins were not successfully introduced until the year 1781, and were carried to no great extent until 1785, since which period the progress has been rapid beyond all example. The acquisition of cotton wool, of a superior quality, from Demerara and the Brazils, and the improvements made in the spinning fine yarns upon the mule jennies, have given a spring to this branch of the cotton manufactory, which has extended it beyond what it was possible to have conceived. Above half a million pieces of muslin of different kinds, including shawls and handkerchiefs, are now supposed to be annually made in Great Britain, and the quantity not only increases daily with the new accession of powers that are bursting forth upon the country, but the quality is exceedingly improved; and since a yearly supply of about 300 bales of East India cotton has been obtained by the way of Ostend, yarns have been spun, and muslins have been wove, equal to any from India; so that nothing is wanting but a fine raw material to enable the British manufacturer to carry this branch to the greatest extent; and, of all others, it is that species of cotton goods which deserves most to be encouraged, because of the immense return it makes for labour more than any other branch of the cotton manufactory. East India cotton wool has been spun into one pound of yarn worth five guineas, and when wove into muslin, and afterwards ornamented by children in the tambour, has extended to the value of fifteen pounds; yielding a return of 5,900 per cent. on the raw material.

Such is the state of the British cotton manufactory at this period. With establishments and mechanical powers capable of bringing forward immense quantities of goods into the consumption, this manufacture is choaked, as it were, in a moment, by a great and sudden reduction of the prices of East India goods of the same species, which have been recently sold above 20 per cent. on an average, under the lowest prices at which the British manufacturer can afford to sell without loss. The quantity sold at the India House in this year, exceeds the average of the preceding seven years, no less than 324,852 pieces. The total quantity sold in

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1787 in 1773 by the East India Company, extended only to 791,646 pieces of calicoes, muslins and nankeens.

Such a conduct in the Company must operate to the very great prejudice of the British manufactures, and will continue to do so while they press goods upon the market at prices which have no relation to the original cost, and under circumstances where the just laws of competition cannot operate, and where every idea of protecting duties is annihilated in the effect of the general system. It appears therefore, unless some relief is given, perhaps little short of one-half of the present mechanical powers now in action must cease working;—about 70 water mills, worth at least 350,000l.; 10,000 jennies, worth 70,000l.; and buildings estimated at 180,000l.; the whole value of which, at least 500,000l. would be lost and become useless.—The revenue arising from the operation of so great a system, must cease also to be productive; a valuable branch of trade, acquired at so much expence and industry, must be lost to the country; the consumption of the raw material must rapidly diminish, to the great injury of the West India islands, and the returns from the labour of the people, to an immense extent in the very productive article of muslins, must be annihilated.

The state of the raw materials, and the progressive and astonishing increase of this manufacture, will be best explained by what follows:

Cotton Wool used in the Manufacture. Supposed Value when manufactured.

		Pounds Weight.		£.
1781,	—	5,101,920	—	2,000,000
1782,	—	11,206,810	—	3,900,000
1783,	—	9,546,179	—	3,200,000
1784,	—	11,280,238	—	3,950,000
1785,	—	17,992,888	—	6,000,000
1786,	—	19,151,867	—	6,500,000
1787,	—	22,600,000	—	7,500,000

The following is a correct list of shipping which arrived at Lisbon during the present year:

English,	—	332	Imperial,	—	5
French,	—	128	Maltese,	—	6
Dutch,	—	72	Neapolitan,	—	2
Swedes,	—	69	Hamburghers,	—	1
Danes,	—	54	Tuscan,	—	1
Americans,	—	33	Bremen,	—	1
Spaniards,	—	23	Dantzic,	—	1
Ragufians,	—	14	Portuguese,	—	300
Venetians,	—	6			

The following is a copy of the port entries at Malaga, from the 1st of January, to the 31st of December, 1787, of merchant ships of different nations.

Spanish,	—	1469	Portuguese,	—	5
French,	—	99	Imperial,	—	28
Swedish,	—	76	From Ragusa,	—	42
Danish,	—	54	— Jerusalem,	—	1
Dutch,	—	24	British,	—	187
Venetian,	—	16			

The difference between this and the year 1786, is a decrease of 197 large ships, and between 1786 and 1785, 112 vessels; the British entries alone have increased nine.

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It appears from the St. Petersburg list of goods exported in this year, that there have been 394 British ships, the cargoes of which consisted of 1,586,088 pods, or 25,176 tons, of iron; 1,050,222 pods of hemp; 359,303 pods of flax, and 1,352,925 pieces of deal.

Of the above number there were 121 ships sailed for the port of London, for Hull 63, Liverpool 26, Bristol 12, Newcastle 6, Whitehaven 3, Chester 2, Lancaster 2, Leith 33, Dundee 16, Grangemouth 13, Borrowstowness 3, Arbroath 3, Aberdeen 3, Greenock 13, Glasgow 1, Dublin 11, Cork 6, Newry 5, and Londonderry 3.

Import of iron, hemp and flax to the following places:

	<i>Iron Pods.</i>	<i>Hemp Pods.</i>	<i>Flax Pods.</i>
Liverpool	54,906	78,215	26,183
Newcastle,	13,411	34,890	4,719
Whitehaven,	8,694	17,456	3,281
Chester,	4,292	4,583	4,704
Lancaster,	1,892	10,988	1,261
Kirkham,	3,754	2,330	9,160

The following is communicated to us as an authentic estimate of the French Levant trade at this period.

	<i>Livres.</i>
Merchandise exported to Constantinople, calculated at	4,000,000
Salonica,	2,300,000
Morea,	250,000
Candia,	250,000
Smyrna,	6,000,000
Syria,	5,000,000
Egypt,	3,000,000
Barbary,	1,500,000
Total,	22,300,000
To which is to be added for caravans,	150,000
For smuggled goods, at least,	1,550,000
Making the whole exportation,	24,000,000
Merchandise imported from Constantinople, calculated at	1,000,000
Salonica,	3,500,000
Morea,	1,000,000
Candia,	1,000,000
Smyrna,	8,000,000
Syria,	6,000,000
Egypt,	3,500,000
Barbary,	2,000,000
Making the whole importation	26,000,000

The number of vessels which have been employed in the whale fishery to Davis's Straights and the Greenland Seas, in the present year, amounted to 217, and their cargoes consisted of 8,884 tons, 1 cwt. 19 lbs. clean oil; 7,874 tons, 1 cwt. 27 lbs. whale fins; and 26,830 seal skins.

It is remarkable, that though the bounty was reduced this year from 40s. to 30s. per ton, there should be so great an encrease in the ships employed in this fishery.

A. D.

1787 An Account of Oil, Whale Fins, and Seals Skins, distinguishing each, which were imported from the Southern Whale Fishery to England, during the Years 1785, 1786, and 1787, distinguishing each Year.

Years.	O I L.			WHALE FINS.			SEAL SKINS.
	Tuns.	H.	G.	Cw.	qrs.	lbs.	Number.
1785,	626	3	41	37	1	11	—
1786,	1,113	0	7	357	2	0	772
1787,	2,181	3	25	1,389	2	10	14,280

There were not any of the above-mentioned articles imported into Scotland from the Southern Whale Fishery during the three years.

An Estimate of the Value of Woollens exported for every Year, from the beginning of 1781 to the end of the Year 1787.

Years.	England.			Scotland.			Great Britain.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1781,	2,803,757	2	10	41,507	10	4	2,845,264	13	2
1782,	3,003,415	14	11	49,368	3	5	3,052,783	18	4
1783,	3,391,224	6	7	68,828	13	3	3,460,052	19	10
1784,	3,316,360	0	6	79,557	10	0	3,395,917	10	6
1785,	3,825,943	0	10	66,376	2	5	3,892,319	3	3
1786,	3,429,805	9	7	83,041	12	3	3,512,847	1	10
1787,	3,610,770	12	8	77,024	19	6	3,687,795	12	2

An Estimate of the Gross Receipt in Money and Bonds, the neat Produce, and Payments into the Exchequer, of the Revenue of Customs in England, for two years, up to the 5th of January, 1788.

Years.	Gross Receipt.			Neat Produce.			Payments.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1786,	7,589,817	5	6	5,434,597	8	7	3,985,732	15	10
1787,	6,511,245	0	0	2,808,211	0	0	3,578,350	10	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

In our general history of the Commerce of this country, there are some of its branches, which, from their importance and extent, deserve more than common attention: of these, our EAST and WEST INDIA TRADES are by far the most eminent; not only by being of themselves immediate sources of national wealth and grandeur, but from furnishing materials for various others; so that they may be justly accounted the two great pillars of our stupendous commercial fabric: for if we consider them with respect to number of shipping, quantity of tonnage, the vast bodies of seamen continually employed, and the value and variety of the commodities exported and imported, every other branch of foreign trade sinks to nothing in the comparison. It cannot, therefore, but be satisfactory to have a clear insight into these trades, and to examine them somewhat minutely. For this purpose we have selected the following statements of exports and imports, &c. which, on account of their being extracted from official papers, have at least authenticity to recommend them.

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STATE OF THE WEST INDIA TRADE.

An Account of the Number of Ships and other Vessels, with their Tonnage, cleared Outwards from the different Ports of South Britain for the West Indies; with those entered Inwards from the same Colonies, from Christmas 1786, to Christmas 1787.

PORTS.	OUTWARDS.		INWARDS.	
	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Bristol, —	73	16,913	71	16,209
Berwick, —	—	—	1	127
Chepstow, —	1	132	—	—
Cowes, —	2	483	—	—
Hull, — —	2	333	1	203
Lancaster, —	37	5,665	33	4,943
Liverpool, —	87	17,463	143	27,578
Newcastle, —	9	2,157	1	114
Penzance, —	1	120	1	164
Plymouth, —	4	737	—	—
Poole, — —	1	226	—	—
Southampton, —	1	177	—	—
Swansea, —	3	579	—	—
Whitehaven, —	12	2,232	3	444
Total of the Out-ports,	233	47,257	254	49,782
London, —	218	61,695	252	70,418
Total, —	451	108,952	506	120,200

An Account of the Number of Ships and other Vessels, with their Tonnage, cleared Outwards from the different Ports of North Britain; with those entered Inwards from the same Colonies, from Christmas 1786, to Christmas 1787.

	OUTWARDS.		INWARDS.	
	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
Aberdeen, —	1	110	1	105
Air, — —	3	259	—	—
Dumfries, —	—	—	1	150
Dundee, —	1	93	1	93
Inverness, —	1	105	—	—
Leith, — —	3	872	1	351
Port Glasgow, —	19	3,414	23	3,587
— Greenock —	48	9,624	41	7,486
Stranraer, —	1	152	1	152
Wigtown, —	—	—	1	98
Totals,	77	14,629	70	12,022

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1787 An Account of the Number of Ships and other Vessels entered Inwards, and cleared Outwards, in the British Sugar Colonies, to and from the several Ports in the British Colonies in North America, and the United States of America, from Michaelmas 1786, to Michaelmas 1787, with their respective Tonnage.

I N W A R D S.											
BRITISH COLONIES IN NORTH AMERICA.						STATES OF AMERICA.					
<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>				<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>			
719	50,263	4,454			—	509	35,546	3,096			
O U T W A R D S.											
<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>				<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>			
255	16,152	1,410			—	373	36,145	2,852			

An Account of the Imports and Exports of Rum and Sugar into and from Great Britain, for the Year, ending Christmas, 1787, with the Duties and Excise, as well as the Drawbacks paid thereon.

I M P O R T E D.											
R U M.						S U G A R.					
<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Duty of Customs.</i>					<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Duty of Customs.</i>				
<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>			<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
2,253,657	46,943	10	—			1,926,741	3	—	1,187,814	12	2
E X P O R T E D.											
R U M.						S U G A R.					
<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Drawback of Customs.</i>					<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Drawback of Customs.</i>				
<i>Gallons.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>			<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
864,313	17,899	4	2			199,398	—	16	122,957	1	9

An Account of the Quantities of Sugar, Rum, Cotton, Coffee, Cocoa, Indigo, Ginger, Aloes, and other Goods, imported into the several Ports of Great Britain, from the British Sugar Colonies, from Christmas 1786, to Christmas 1787, inclusive, with Duties of Customs, payable on each Article,

<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>			<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>			
		<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>			<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Drugs.	Aloes Epatica,	344	18	9	Dye Stuffs & } Hard Wood }	Fustic,	37,333	6	0	
	Cassia Lignea,	1	7	0		Indigo,	2,634	1	7	
	Radix Serpentaria,	12	15	0	Lignum vitæ,	2,497	9	0		
	Sarsaparilla,	101	17	6	Logwood,	81,225	3	6		
	Other Drugs,	7,365	16	9	Mahogany,	57,786	16	3		
Dye Stuffs & }	Archelia,	8	17	2	Grocery.	Cocoa,	-	9,884	13	7
Hard Wood. }	Braziletto,	1,378	13	3		Coffee,	-	212,277	9	3
	Ebony,	3,504	18	3		Ginger,	-	11,448	16	3
					Grocery.					

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<i>Species of Goods.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Species of Goods.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Grocery. Pimento, -	15,211 9 0	Spirits, Rum -	203,822 9 10
Sugar, Brown -	2,634,686 1 6	Tobacco, -	550 10 1
Turmeric, -	170 4 0	Tortoiseshell, -	1,293 6 0
Hides, Ox or Cow, -	2,003 15 0	Wool, Cotton -	327,600 8 9
Lemons and Oranges, -	2 3 11		
Total value of actual produce,			£. 3,613,147 7 2

The preceding articles are all the actual produce of the British West Indies, but those which follow in this account, are either not the produce of the West Indies, or are doubtful.

<i>Species of Goods.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Species of Goods.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Books, Bound -	56 19 11	Potatoes, -	0 10 0
Unbound, -	1 5 10	Provisions, Bread & Biscuit,	28 2 0
Bottles, Glass -	26 12 1	Rags, -	197 6 7
Corn, Wheat, Flour -	0 8 9	Seeds, Garden -	4 2 6
Drugs, Cortex Peruv. -	1 2 6	Skins, Calf, Raw -	28 6 8
Oil, Palm -	164 18 2	Deer, in the Hair,	69 12 6
Dye Stuffs & } Annotto,	3 0 0	Goat, Raw -	147 15 0
Hard Wood. } Camwood,	119 17 9	Otter, -	22 2 4
Nicaragua,	13,167 3 5	Turpentine, -	77 13 9
Redwood,	167 5 4	Wax, Bees -	250 0 0
Saunders Red,	13 2 6	Whale Fins, -	148 10 0
Shumack,	26 0 0	Wines, French, -	1 1 5
Elephants' Teeth, -	381 12 5	Madeira, -	6,544 11 2
Feathers for Beds, -	1 0 0	Port, -	259 12 4
Grocery, Rice -	2,928 7 3	Spanish, -	56 4 5
Hides, Indian in the Hair,	2 14 0	Wood, Cedar, -	1,762 10 8
Iron, Bar -	19 10 0	Pine Boards and Planks,	3 6 8
Cast -	478 10 7	Staves, Barrel	472 17 8
Linen, Sail Cloth, -	4 4 4	Staves, Hhd. and Pipe,	3,070 13 11
Sails, foreign made	16 3 0	Other Wood,	3,725 13 6
Oil, Train -	8 14 4	Miscellaneous Articles,	4,635 12 11
Pictures, -	11 10 0		
Total value of doubtful produce,			39,106 8 2
Total value of actual produce,			3,613,147 7 2
Total value of imports,			3,652,253 15 4

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An Account of the Value and Amount of Goods (being British Produce and Manufacture) for Exportation to the British Sugar Colonies, from the several Ports in Great Britain, from Christmas 1786, to Christmas 1787, inclusive.

<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>			<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>		
		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
Allum,	-	1	11	10	Stuffs, plain	-	1,800	0	0
Apothecary's Ware,	-	4,738	11	0	Cyder,	-	663	2	9
Apparel Garments,	-	3,670	8	0	Fish. Cod, dry	-	589	3	0
Beer,	-	11,179	3	0	Herrings, red	-	7,926	3	9
Books, printed	-	434	5	8	Ditto,	-	46,721	16	0
Brafs, wrought	-	13,681	6	2	Salmon, salted	-	754	0	0
Brick,	-	1,141	2	1	Fishing tackle,	-	15	0	0
Cabinet Ware & Upholstery,	-	3,226	14	0	Glass and earthen ware,	-	5,626	3	9
Candles, tallow	-	32,058	2	5	Green,	-	5,919	3	6
wax	-	319	0	0	White flint	-	426	11	2
Cards, new, wool	-	68	8	0	For windows,	-	128	1	3
playing	-	55	2	5	Gloves, plain leather	-	485	8	0
Cattle, live cows and oxen,	-	37	10	0	Glue,	-	2	17	0
Horses,	-	1,597	10	0	Grindlestones,	-	887	12	6
Mules,	-	1,450	0	0	Gunpowder,	-	1,029	0	2
Chariots and coaches,	-	545	0	0	Haberdashery,	-	16,263	17	11
Coals, great	-	29	18	9	Hats, beaver	-	14,875	13	4
Winton measure	-	9,246	13	2	Carolina,	-	195	0	0
Colours for painters,	-	4,017	15	0	Felt,	-	25,723	13	0
Copper, wrought	-	30,610	6	10	Hoops for barrels,	-	2,410	15	3
Cordage, new	-	2,880	10	0	Several sorts,	-	3,320	11	0
Old	-	8,933	10	2	Iron, cast	-	1,153	19	6
Corn, Barley	-	227	19	4	Nails	-	4,255	10	7
Ditto, hulled	-	374	5	7	Wrought,	-	152,188	6	9
Beans,	-	6,728	6	1	Lead, and bird shot,	-	4,082	8	5
Oats,	-	6,093	13	9	Red	-	20	14	0
Oatmeal,	-	1,054	0	9	White,	-	27	12	0
Peas,	-	2,303	19	0	Leather, tanned	-	3,622	15	1
Rye,	-	264	15	7	Wrought	-	21,120	10	3
Wheat,	-	693	4	6	Lime,	-	4,385	9	7
Ditto, flour	-	19,020	14	7	Linen, above bounty,	-	22,320	2	6
Cottons } Checked,	-	6,303	19	0	2s. 6d. per yard,	-	16,286	6	3
and } Printed for Bounty,	-	5,101	10	0	5½d. ditto,	-	1	13	0
Linens. } Ditto, not Bounty,	-	32,497	18	0	6d. to 18d. ditto,	-	232,829	2	0
6d. to 18d. before	-				Buckrams, 6d. to 18d.	-			
printed	-	59,875	0	0	ditto,	-	87	2	0
6d. to 18d. before	-				checked, 7d. to 18d.	-			
dyed	-	3,212	0	0	ditto,	-	86,787	4	0
Fustians,	-	20,547	2	0	Ditto, 6½d. ditto	-	703	18	6
Manchester,	-	31,133	0	0	Ditto, 2s. 3d. ditto	-	32	12	6
					Diaper,	-			

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Species of Goods.

Value.

£. s. d.

Linen, Diaper, 6d. to 18d. do.			
for bounty	1,221	11	0
Ditto, not for bounty	50	0	0
Sheeting, 6d. to 18d.	425	13	0
Sailcloth, ditto	11,231	12	1
Irish, plain, 6d. to 18d.	31,326	15	0
Diaper, ditto ditto	5	15	0
Sheeting, ditto	159	17	0
Oil, train	1,789	7	5
Pantiles,	296	18	1
Pewter,	4,586	18	10
Plate, wrought filver	3,081	5	0
Provisions, Bacon and hams	4,112	5	0
Beef and pork	816	15	0
Tripes	2,084	5	0
Bread and biscuit	7,039	18	8
Butter,	382	4	0
Cheese,	3,159	11	9
Potatoes,	596	1	6
Saddles, great	160	5	0
Salt, rock	50	0	0
White	1,149	0	1
Silk, in pieces	7,925	16	10
Sewing	2,648	0	9
Gauze,	265	9	4
Soap, hard,	16,161	12	11
Spirits, British	300	0	0
Starch,	1,190	14	2
Stationary,	2,543	14	0
Stained paper,	228	5	6
Steel,	143	18	6
Stockings, thread	5,742	19	0
Stones, slate	71	14	2
Sugar, fully refined	12,538	7	3
Thread	520	11	0
Tin,	389	4	10

Species of Goods

Value.

£. s. d.

Tin plates	-	50	0	0
Tobacco pipes,	-	257	13	0
Toys,	-	103	0	0
Vinegar,	-	295	7	10
Watches, gold	-	255	0	0
metal	-	30	0	0
filver	-	225	0	0
Woollen } Bays, double		23,250	0	0
Goods. } — fingle		1,822	18	6
Caps, plain, Mon-		400	0	0
mouth		67	5	0
— worsted		5,645	17	6
Cloths, long		10,660	10	0
— short		860	0	0
— Spanish		29,161	17	2
Cottons, Kendal		197	11	2
— Welsh,		2,749	10	0
plains		291	13	4
Flannel,		480	0	0
Frize,	-	186	17	6
Northern dozens,		945	11	0
fingle	-	18,927	0	0
Perpets and Serges,		470	16	5
Stockings, men's		4	16	9
worsted		0	16	6
Stuffs,	-	189	16	1
— with filk and		2,829	1	10
inckle	-	256.103	0	10
— with filk and				
inckle gauze				
— with filk and				
grogam	-			
— with filk and				
worsted	-			
Woollens at value,				
Miscellaneous articles,				
Total,		1,463,879	14	11

Ans

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An Account of the Value and Amount of Goods (being Foreign Produce and Manufacture) entered for Exportation to the British Sugar Colonies, from the several Ports in Great Britain, from Christmas 1786, to Christmas 1787; distinguishing such Goods as have been imported by the East India Company.

<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>			<i>Species of Goods.</i>		<i>Value.</i>		
		£.	s.	d.			£.	s.	d.
Beads, coral	-	1	4	10	Dye Stuffs. Saffron,	-	20	8	6
Books, bound	-	16	0	0	Smalts,	-	0	16	8
Boxes, pills	-	29	6	3	Feathers for beds,	-	28	14	2
Brimstone,	-	111	1	9	Flax, rough	-	85	0	0
Bugle, great	-	43	7	6	Fish, cod	-	55	0	0
Corn. Beans,	-	437	8	9	Grocery. Almonds, sweet	-	45	9	3
Oats,	-	981	8	11	Anniseeds,	-	6	18	8
Oatmeal,	-	92	15	0	Barley, pearl	-	24	17	2
Wheat flour,	-	12	1	6	Cinnamon,	-	66	10	0
Drugs. Almonds, bitter	-	4	15	1	Cloves,	-	62	16	3
Aloes Cicotrina,	-	2	5	4	Coffee,	-	1	10	11
— Epatica,	-	1	15	3	Currants,	-	317	0	0
Antimonium Crudum	-	0	6	3	Figs,	-	4	3	7
Affa Fætida,	-	5	6	10	Mace,	-	124	18	6
Camphire, unrefined	-	0	10	0	Nutmegs,	-	91	1	8
Cantharides,	-	199	1	0	Pimento,	-	0	2	4
Cassia Lignea,	-	186	18	4	Prunes,	-	50	2	6
Cardamoms,	-	0	8	9	Raisins, Denia	-	28	11	0
Cortex Peruv.	-	940	2	6	— Lipra	-	46	11	8
Cream of Tartar,	-	6	10	4	— Smyrna	-	32	16	2
Gambogium,	-	0	16	3	— Solis	-	456	14	0
Gum Arabic,	-	1	10	0	Rice	-	429	1	2
Jallap,	-	74	2	11	Sugar, brown	-	6	5	11
Ifinglafs,	-	4	0	0	Turmeric,	-	0	1	8
Juniper berries,	-	13	18	1	Hats, chip and straw	-	19	7	6
Manna,	-	88	12	8	Incle, wrought	-	104	8	0
Myrrh,	-	8	12	9	Iron, bar	-	1,888	17	5
Oil perfumed,	-	6	19	6	Lace, bone	-	2	7	3
Opium,	-	81	16	3	Linens. Cambrics	-	1,997	8	7
Quicksilver,	-	63	1	6	Canvafs, Hessens	-	458	17	5
Radix Ipecacuana,	-	46	1	3	— spruce	-	1,673	16	11
— Serpentaria,	-	16	12	0	Damask Silesia nap-	-			
Saccarum Saturni,	-	9	10	4	kening	-	24	0	4
Sarsaparilla,	-	40	14	8	— ditto tabling	-	115	0	2
Senna,	-	46	7	9	Diaper Silesia napken-	-			
Succus Liquoritiæ,	-	1	10	0	ing	-	129	11	4
Drugs at value,	-	275	14	9	Diaper Silesia tabling	-	57	15	10
Dye stuffs. Annotto,	-	5	16	8	— Russia narrow	-			
Brazil,	-	11	0	3	under half ell	-	76	6	9
					Linens.	-			

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Species of Goods.	Value.		
	£.	s.	d.
Linens, Germany broad under			
36 inches	1,072	18	3
— narrow	23,754	16	11
— ditto striped	113	18	6
Holland and Flanders			
under 1s. 1-8 ell	54	5	4
Irish plain 6½d. to 18d.			
for bounty	12,678	0	0
— sheeting, ditto,	73	6	0
— plain, not for bounty	65	12	6
Lawns, Silesia Holland			
whited	923	18	0
— ditto, not Hol-			
land whited	2,566	12	0
Russia broad above			
22½	1,045	3	11
— above 31½	586	8	9
— above 36	4,809	14	5
— drilling	247	15	6
— narrow	467	3	3
— fail cloth	5	13	4
Ticks	120	1	0
Mats, Russia	0	12	0
Oil, ordinary	38	6	3
fallad	438	11	0

Species of Goods.	Value.		
	£.	s.	d.
Oil, train	23	18	1
Provisions. Bacon and hams,	88	18	6
Beef	16,403	0	0
Bread and biscuits	26	0	0
Butter	8,106	13	0
Pork	16,673	18	2
Silk wrought crapes	103	16	0
Spirits, brandy	766	17	1
Geneva	825	8	0
Rum	1,920	0	0
Tallow,	781	4	7
Thread, fifters	2	12	0
Tobacco,	961	3	9
Wax, bees	5	18	3
Water, Pyrmont	3	3	9
Wines. Canary,	72	9	5
French	5,834	13	4
Madeira	1,152	1	2
Port	5,336	9	2
Rhenish	190	5	1
Spanish	2,315	19	9
Other wines	23	16	1
Wood. Deals, ordinary	20	9	8
Staves, barrel	54	18	7
Timber, fir	5	4	0
Total,	123,209	16	2

GOODS IMPORTED by the EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Species of Goods.	Value.		
	£.	s.	d.
China ware,	1,646	2	9
Borax refined,	2	0	0
Rhubarb,	1,101	12	9
Pepper,	481	17	4
Sago,	125	3	5
Value of East India goods,			
Value of Foreign produce,			
Total value of British produce,			

Species of Goods.	Value.		
	£.	s.	d.
Grocery, tea	6,338	17	4
Piece goods, Bengal rated	797	16	2
Ditto, unrated	14369	4	4
Saltpetre,	57	0	8
	24,919	14	9
	123,209	16	2
	1,463,879	14	11
	1,612,009	5	10
	3,652,253	15	4
	1,612,009	5	10
	2,040,244	9	6

Total value of goods exported to the West Indies,
 Total value of goods imported from the West Indies,
 Total value of goods exported to the West Indies,

Excess,

STATE OF THE EAST INDIA TRADE.

An Account of the Number and Tonnage of the Ships laden in China for the East India Company, in the Season 1786-7.

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Builders Mea- surement.</i>	<i>Chartered Tonnage.</i>	<i>Tonnage laden in China.</i>	<i>Kintladge laden in England.</i>	<i>Total Tons on Board.</i>
Duke of Montrose,	762	755	686	92	778
Northumberland,	784	755	741	92	833
Southampton,	758	758	716	92	808
Earl Cornwallis,	774	755	694	92	786
Contractor,	777	758	761	92	853
Stormont,	737	723	678	88	766
Royal Charlotte,	855	758	850	92	942
Neptune,	809	758	772	92	864
Ranger,	537	537	467	66	533
Pitt,	779	755	669	92	761
Bridgewater	799	755	732	92	824
Pigot,	765	758	795	92	887
Chapman,	538	538	576	66	642
Admiral Sir Edward Hughes,	810	—	670	—	670
Lord North	777	758	741	92	833
Carnatic,	779	758	709	92	801
Valentine,	790	755	663	92	755
Vanfittart,	828	758	687	92	779
Sullivan,	876	755	769	92	861
Fort William,	798	755	753	92	845
Ponfborne,	804	758	776	92	868
General Goddard,	799	755	730	92	822
Europa,	772	755	742	92	834
Middlesex,	852	755	735	92	827
Earl of Mansfield,	782	758	743	92	835
York,	867	758	874	92	966
Royal Bishop,	708	720	724	86	810
Mars,	696	696	659	85	744
London,	836	758	881	92	973
—	—	—	—	—	—
29 ships.	22,448	20,615	20,993	2,507	23,500
—	—	—	—	—	—

There were likewise 19 ships, measuring 16,121 tons, builder's measurement, consigned by the East India Company to China, for the season 1788-9.

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An Account of the Quantity and Sorts of Tea imported in this Year, in the twenty-seven Ships which arrived from China.

								Neat lbs.
Bohea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,493,816
Congou,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,266,136
Souchong,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,113,900
Singlo,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,355,251
Hyfon,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,623,572
Total,								18,852,675

An Account of the Amount of the Silver sent from England to China, in the East India Company's Ships, for three Years, distinguishing the Amount in each Year.

Years.	On Account of the Company.	Ditto of private Persons.	Totals.
	£.	£.	£.
1785,	704,259	—	704,259
1786,	694,960	7,223	702,183
1787,	625,384	35,326	660,710
Total amount,	2,024,603	42,549	2,067,152

An account of the quantity of British Corn exported, and of Foreign Corn imported and exported for the year 1781, as taken from the Custom-house books.

	British, exported.	Foreign, imported.	Foreign, exported.
	Qrs. Bush.	Qrs. Bush.	Qrs. Bush.
Barley,	19,884 7	17,783 3	1,320 0
Beans,	10,114 0	36,912 5	893 0
Oats,	11,151 5	394,185 7	2,112 5
Oatmeal,	1,107 0	1,793 0	—
Peas,	6,376 6	2,266 6	318 2
Rye,	12,683 3	2,702 0	—
Wheat,	75,360 4	46,973 1	335 1
		Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.
Wheat Flour,	43,946 0	9,741 0 6	381 2 7
Malt,	111,016 0	—	—

The following are the bills relative to trade and commerce which passed during this session.

A bill against unlawful lotteries.

For establishing a conveyance of letters between Milford Haven and Waterford.

To regulate the commercial intercourse between the British colonies and United States of America.

To regulate the British fishery.

For repealing the several duties on customs and excise, and granting other duties in lieu thereof; and for applying the said duties, with the other duties composing the public revenue;

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1787 for permitting the importation of certain goods, wares and merchandize, the produce or manufactory of the European dominions of the French King, into this kingdom.

To perpetuate two acts, 15th and 17th of George III. relative to promissory notes and bills of exchange.

For encouraging the arts of designing and printing linens, &c. by vesting the property thereof in the designers, printers, &c. for a limited time.

To farm the post-horse duties.

For allowing the importation and exportation of certain goods in Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica and New Providence, under certain restrictions.

To allow further time for the inrollment of deeds and wills made by Papists, &c.

For granting certain duties on glass imported, &c.

Respecting vessels and boats liable to seizure by an act of the 24th of George III. for preventing smuggling, and also relative to the duties on wine and oil flasks, foreign geneva and ebony.

For making an allowance to the dealers in foreign wines, for the stock in their possession a certain time, &c.

Relative to the importation of raw hides from Ireland and British America; to the exportation of wheat, &c. to the British sugar colonies; to prohibiting the exportation of tools and utensils in the iron and steel manufactories, and to prevent the seducing of artificers; and for granting a bounty on the exportation of certain British and Irish linens.

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	5 per cent.	Long Ann.	Short Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	Old Ann.	New Ann. 1777	Navy Bills.	Exchequer Bills.	Lottery Tickets.
January,	{ 149 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{8}$	110 $\frac{1}{8}$	22	13 $\frac{5}{8}$	167	70	56	73 $\frac{5}{8}$		2 $\frac{1}{8}$ dif	15	14 16
	{ 152 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{3}{8}$	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{5}{8}$	40	74 $\frac{5}{8}$			14	15 6
February,	{ 151 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{5}{8}$	110	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	163	71	41	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	2	21	15 4
	{ 153 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	95 $\frac{1}{8}$	111 $\frac{5}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	14	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	16	10 9
March,	{ 153 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	164	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	14	
	{ 156 $\frac{1}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	76 $\frac{3}{8}$	96 $\frac{5}{8}$	114 $\frac{1}{8}$	23	14 $\frac{1}{8}$	168 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{4}$	54	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	21	
April,	{ 153 $\frac{1}{4}$	76 $\frac{3}{8}$	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	97 $\frac{1}{8}$	113 $\frac{1}{8}$	23		169 $\frac{1}{4}$	72 $\frac{1}{8}$	38		75 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	5	
	{ 155 $\frac{5}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{3}{8}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	23 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	170 $\frac{3}{4}$	72 $\frac{5}{8}$	60		76 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	11	
May,	{ 154 $\frac{1}{4}$	76 $\frac{1}{8}$	77	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	170 $\frac{1}{4}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	56	75 $\frac{3}{8}$	76 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	15 6
	{ 156 $\frac{5}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{5}{8}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	172 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	63	77 $\frac{1}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	19	16 3
June,	{ 147	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	111	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	161 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{5}{8}$	55	72 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	4	15 18
	{ 155 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{3}{8}$	77 $\frac{3}{8}$	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	115 $\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	171	72 $\frac{5}{8}$	62	75 $\frac{7}{8}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	16	16 3
July,	{ 145	70 $\frac{1}{8}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{3}{8}$	108 $\frac{1}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	4	15 10
	{ 150 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{5}{8}$	113 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	165 $\frac{1}{8}$	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	67	72 $\frac{7}{8}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	16 0
August,	{ 147 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{7}{8}$	70 $\frac{3}{8}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	67	71	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	22	15 16
	{ 153 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	162	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	80	73	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	34	15 19
Septemb.	{ 145	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	67	91	105	21	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	158 $\frac{1}{4}$	68 $\frac{7}{8}$	70	72 $\frac{1}{4}$	69	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	23	15 11
	{ 152 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	110 $\frac{7}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	164 $\frac{1}{4}$	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	83	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{7}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	32	15 16
October,	{ 145 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{3}{4}$	69 $\frac{1}{4}$	90 $\frac{1}{8}$	105 $\frac{1}{8}$	20 $\frac{7}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	158 $\frac{1}{4}$	65 $\frac{1}{4}$	64	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	8	15 11
	{ 150	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	91 $\frac{1}{4}$	108	21 $\frac{5}{8}$	21 $\frac{5}{8}$		161 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	70 $\frac{1}{4}$	70 $\frac{5}{8}$	3	21	15 18
Novemb.	{ 152 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{3}{8}$	113 $\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{3}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	168 $\frac{1}{4}$	70 $\frac{7}{8}$	80	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	21	15 18
	{ 160 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{7}{8}$	115 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	75	3	27	16 17
Decemb.	{ 157	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{8}$	115	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	174 $\frac{3}{4}$	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	76	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	22	16 11
	{ 158 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	77 $\frac{3}{8}$	96 $\frac{1}{4}$	115 $\frac{7}{8}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	177	72 $\frac{1}{4}$	88	76		2 $\frac{1}{8}$	31	16 16

SUPPLIES

A. D.

1787

SUPPLIES granted by Parliament for this year:—

	£.	s.	d.
For the navy,	2,286,000	0	0
For the army,	1,876,287	6	9
For the ordnance,	328,576	17	3
Miscellaneous services,	5,723,017	18	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Deficiencies,	1,675,717	15	2 $\frac{7}{8}$
Total Supplies,	11,889,599	17	5 $\frac{5}{8}$

The WAYS and MEANS for raising the foregoing Supplies.

	£.	s.	d.
Land tax and duty on malt,	2,750,000	0	0
To be applied out of the sinking fund,	1,226,072	2	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lottery,	256,875	0	0
Exchequer bills,	5,500,000	0	0
Surplus of the consolidated fund,	2,400,000	0	0
Imprest monies remaining in the Exchequer,	74,102	9	10
Army savings,	44,806	2	7
Money granted for the army in 1785, remaining in the Exchequer,	180,000	0	0
Total of Ways and Means,	12,431,855	15	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total amount of Supplies granted,	11,889,599	17	5 $\frac{5}{8}$
Excess of Ways and Means,	542,255	17	10 $\frac{7}{8}$

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London, for this year.

Christened, males	8,929	Buried, males	9,821
— females	8,579	— females	9,528
	<u>17,508</u>		<u>19,349</u>

1788 Before we enter upon the history of this year, we must refer to the close of the preceding one, when in consequence of a notification from the Court of France, that his Christian Majesty intended to assist the States of Holland against any invasion or hostile attempts from the King of Prussia, an augmentation took place during the last summer in our navy and army, and such preparations were made as checked the purpose of France, and tended greatly to re-establish the constitutional government of the Dutch Republic.

On the 27th of November, his Majesty opened the fifth session of the present Parliament by the following speech from the throne:

“ *My Lords and Gentlemen,*

“ At the close of the last session I informed you of the concern with which I observed the disputes unhappily subsisting in the Republic of the United Provinces. Their situation soon afterwards became more critical and alarming, and the danger which threatened their constitution and independence, seemed likely, in its consequence, to affect the security and interests

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1788 of my dominions. No endeavours were wanting, on my part, to contribute by my good offices to the restoration of tranquillity and the maintenance of the lawful government; and I also thought it necessary to explain my intention of counteracting all forcible interference on the part of France, in the internal affairs of the Republic. Under these circumstances, the King of Prussia having taken measures to enforce his demand of satisfaction for the insult offered to the Princess of Orange, the party which had usurped the government of Holland applied to the Most Christian King for assistance, who notified to me his intention of granting their request. In conformity to the principle which I had before explained, I did not hesitate, on receiving this notification, to declare, that I could not remain a quiet spectator of the armed interference of France, and I gave immediate orders for augmenting my forces both by sea and land. In the course of these transactions I also thought proper to conclude a treaty with the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, by which I secured the assistance of a considerable body of troops in case my service should require it. In the mean time, the rapid success of the Prussian troops under the conduct of the Duke of Brunswick, while it was the means of obtaining the reparation demanded by the King of Prussia, enabled the provinces to deliver themselves from the oppression under which they laboured, and to re-establish their lawful government. All subjects of contest being thus removed, an amicable explanation took place between me and the Most Christian King, and declarations have been exchanged by our respective Ministers, by which we have agreed mutually to disarm, and to place our naval establishments on the same footing as in the beginning of the present year. It gives me the greatest satisfaction, that the important events which I have communicated to you, have taken place without disturbing my subjects in the enjoyments of the blessings of peace; and I have great pleasure in acquainting you, that I continue to receive from all foreign powers the fullest assurances of their pacific and friendly disposition towards this country. I must, at the same time, regret that the tranquillity of one part of Europe is unhappily interrupted by the war which has broken out between Russia and the Porte. A convention has also been agreed upon between me and the Most Christian King, explanatory of the thirteenth article of the last treaty of peace, and calculated to prevent jealousies and disputes between our respective subjects in the East Indies.— I have ordered copies of the several treaties to which I have referred, and of the declaration and counter-declaration exchanged at Versailles, to be laid before you.” The speech concluded with a particular mention of the extraordinary expences which the situation of affairs rendered necessary, and a general allusion to the flourishing state of the commerce and revenues of the country.

The usual addresses were moved in both Houses, and carried *nemine contradicente*.

On the 29th of November the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented the following papers to the House by the King's command.

An Account of the Charges incurred by the late Armament, delivered by the Secretary at War.

	£.	s.	d.
Expence of the augmented establishment of the foot guards and regiments infantry, between the 24th of September, and 24th of December, 1787, inclusive, — — — — —	40,387	10	8
Ditto of the additional military and hospital staff for the West Indies, from the dates of the respective appointments during the period before specified, — — — — —	700	4	3
Carried over,	41,087	14	11

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			£.	s.	d.
		Brought forward,	41,087	14	11
Levy money for the recruits raised by the foot guards beyond their former establishment,	—	—	735	0	0
Continuation of full pay and allowances to the officers of the eleven companies, from the 9th of November, 1787, to the 24th of December following,	—	2,195	10	6	
Deduct the savings of the half-pay of the said officers, from the 24th of September, to the 24th of December,		2,016	15	1	
Difference,	—	—	178	15	5
Expence of extraordinary marches,	—	—	700	0	0
Camp equipage and hospital bedding,	—	—	15,346	8	5
Medicines,	—	—	1,830	5	3
		Total,	59,878	4	0

An Estimate of the Expences incurred by the Augmentation and Equipment of his Majesty's Naval Forces, since the 18th of September last, dated from the Navy Office, 27th Nov. 1787.

			£.	s.	d.
Six months freight of 5,023 tons of transports,	—	—	15,389	18	9
Charge of fitting and stores,	—	—	1,990	8	3
Freight and wages of 28 tenders	—	—	8,594	8	6
Fitting and stores,	—	—	2,635	10	10
Rigging and supplying with stores six forty gun ships,	—	—	4,000	0	0
Imprested to pay bounty to seamen,	—	—	7,700	0	0
More may be wanted for the like service,	—	—	6,000	0	0
Charge of procuring men on shore,	—	—	4,396	19	7
Amount of advanced price on hemp purchased,	—	—	10,000	0	0
Loss on victualling the army transports,	—	—	5,000	0	0
More for compromising bargains for provisions for the fleet at home and abroad,	—	—	20,000	0	0
A computed amount of the general charges, under the heads of wages, wear, tear and victualling,	—	—	74,700	0	0
Gratuity to officers and seamen who have entered since the 18th of September, and are now to be paid off and discharged,	—	—	15,000	0	0
		Total,	175,407	5	11

Expences incurred by the Office of his Majesty's Ordnance on Account of the late Armament.

REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

			£.	s.	d.
Raising and arming an augmentation of one bombardier and ten gunners per company, amounting to 440 men, to the royal regiment of artillery, with the pay of the same to the 31st of December, 1787,	—	—	5,193	6	8
		Carried over,	5,193	6	8

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1788

AN HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION

					£. s. d.
				Brought forward,	5,193 6 8
Arms for the augmentation to forty-nine battalions and				£. s. d.	
four new raised regiments of foot,	—	—	—	13,295 5 0	
<i>Mem.</i> As it is not necessary immediately to replace the above arms, no demand is made on this estimate.					
Ammunition and intrenching tools for fundry regiments of foot ordered on service,	—	—	—	442 17 0	
Tents to fundry regiments ordered on service,				2,663 17 0	
					3,106 14 0
STORES, &c. FOR THE NAVY.					
To replace ordnance stores supplied to the navy and expences incurred in the several ports of Great Britain on account of the late armament, computed at about	—	—	—	—	10,000 0 0
				Total,	18,300 0 8
Total of army estimates,	—	—	—		59,878 4 0
Ditto navy,	—	—	—		175,407 5 11
Ditto ordnance and stores,	—	—	—		18,300 0 8
Total expence of the armament,	—	—	—		253,585 10 7

On the 4th of December, 1787, Mr. Grenville called the attention of Parliament to the situation of the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majesty's subjects in the island of Newfoundland, in the articles of bread, flour, Indian corn, live stock, &c. A statute already existed for the regulation of this trade, and the necessity of continuing it arose from the trade in question having increased and prospered beyond all expectation, to the manifest advantage of Newfoundland. When this bill had been originally introduced into the House, its duration had been limited to the period of a single year; and it had been confidently asserted at that time, that Newfoundland could not possibly exist without a free and unrestrained trade to America; and that in consequence of the peace the British fishery on the Banks of Newfoundland must be totally annihilated; but from the evidence of three years, the reverse of this prediction had been verified. The British Newfoundland fishery not only existed, but prospered under a politic restraint and prudent limitation of its trade; insomuch, that it never had been so flourishing as it was at the present period. The number of British ships and men employed in this fishery had been doubled since the termination of the war, and the quantity of fish taken had also been increased in an equal proportion. In fact, the British fishery had increased, and still was increasing in the most rapid manner, while that of France had hitherto declined, and still continued to decline in an almost proportionable ratio. Not more than 7,000 British seamen had been employed in the year 1785; but, in the year 1787, the number employed was 14,000: whereas the French had employed 7,000 seamen in this trade in 1786, and in the year 1787 the number had decreased to somewhat under 6,000. In 1786, the French took 426,000 quintals of fish, and in the year following 128,000 quintals was the full amount of their taking. On the contrary, in the year 1786, the British fishers

certain

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1788 took only 470,000 quintals, but in the succeeding year, 732,000. Hence it is evident of how great importance the Newfoundland fishery is to this kingdom, as well with regard to the manufacturing interests of Great Britain, as to its grand interesting characteristic, that of being a constant and essential nursery for British seamen. The existing statute, and which was on the point of expiring, had been made to continue for two years, and it was now proposed to continue it for two years longer. Upon these principles, a bill was brought in to confirm, for a certain limited time, the trade between the ports of the United States of America, and his Majesty's subjects in the island of Newfoundland, &c.

On the 28th of May, in this year, Mr. Pitt rose to move for leave to bring in a bill relative to that part of the Newfoundland fishery, which, by the last treaty of peace with France, was ceded to that nation, observing, that he would not detain the House long, nor go into the discussion of the subject at large, but reserve a more extended investigation for a subsequent stage of the business, when the House should have the bill before them. He would only, therefore, for the present, take a general view of the subject. He reminded the House of the situation in which the fisheries of Newfoundland had been placed, in respect to us and the French, by the treaty of Utrecht, and in what measure that situation was varied by the last treaty of peace. A declaration upon this subject had been since signed and exchanged by the two Courts, in which there was no strict engagement with the Court of France, that she should enjoy an exclusive right to the whole of the fishery in the places therein specified (from Cape Bonavista to Cape St. John, and thence to Cape Raye) but only a stipulation to prevent the British subjects from molesting them. He explained his construction of these stipulations, and dwelt upon the distinction between that sort of concurrence which molested, or tended to molest, and that which did not. He said, his opinion was for acting under a liberal construction of that declaration, in proof of our good faith, and sincere desire to preserve the full extent of the meaning of the article that referred to the fifth article of the definitive treaty.—Mr. Pitt stated the policy of England's keeping as separate as possible the fisheries of the two countries, since an intermixture might create jealousy, and make the French acquainted with our mode of curing the fish, and also those particulars, that gave us so evident a superiority in that important branch of British commerce. He thought it would be right to give notice, that the stipulations of the treaty appeared to relate only to the coasts of Newfoundland, and that clearly the French had no right to the inland fishery, or to that in the rivers and creeks, where, it seems, excellent salmon fisheries abound. They had a right, however, to fish in the mouths of the rivers for salmon. He explained the utility of uniting both the fisheries, urging the extreme disadvantage that must result from the French being confined to one species of fishery, either that of the cod, or that of the salmon; and after stating that the loss of the salmon fishery would amount to between 5,000l and 6,000l. a year, he concluded with moving for leave to bring in a bill “To enable his Majesty to make such regulations as may be necessary for preventing the inconveniencies which might arise from the competition of his Majesty's subjects, and those of the Most Christian King, in carrying on the fishery on the coasts of the island of Newfoundland.”

On the 5th of February, the House went into a committee, to take into consideration the petitions of the corn distillers of London and Scotland. The nature of this business was as follows:—In the year 1786, an act of Parliament passed, by which the Scotch distillers were not to be subjected to the visits of excise officers, nor to pay according to the quantity of spirits that they should actually distil; but that they should take out a licence, for which they should

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1788 pay 1l. 10s. per annum for every gallon which each still contained, which would amount to 10d. per gallon on the quantity that it was supposed they would be able to distil annually: but by the Scotch working their stills sometimes four, and sometimes six times in the 24 hours, the duty did not in fact amount to one penny per gallon; so that the Scotch were thus enabled to undersell the English in the London market. They had actually imported into England the whole of the quantity that it was supposed they would have distilled in the year, and 90,000 gallons over; so that they had the whole of their home consumption duty free: in short, the leading principle of this bill was to give the Scotch the full command over their own market, but it had never been in the contemplation of the legislature to enable the Scotch distillers to meet the distillers of London on the English market under superior advantages. Besides, in its present state, there was a very wide door open for frauds on the revenue; as it had been proved, at a former period, before a committee of the House of Commons, that in one year 300,000 gallons of spirits distilled in Scotland had been imported into England, more than all the spirits distilled in Scotland that were paid duty for. The duty paid by the London distiller was 2s. 9d. per gallon, in Scotland it was nominally 10d. but in reality not more than from 2½d. to 3d. to which the import of 2s. being added, the whole would make 2s. 3d. or thereabouts. It was therefore proposed by the Minister, by way of equalizing the duties in both kingdoms, that an additional duty of 6d. per gallon should be laid upon spirits distilled in Scotland and brought into England. As the bill of 1786 was passed for two years, it became, undoubtedly, that sort of compact between the legislature and the distillers of Scotland for a limited period, of which nothing but very strong circumstances would warrant an abrogation; but it was evident, as well for the sake of the revenue, as for the prosperity of the English distillers, that though there were but about five months to come before the act of 1786 expired, an alteration of the duty was absolutely necessary. Indeed, this equalizing duty must be considered merely as a temporary expedient, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in considering the matter, declared it to be the intention of Government to undertake a full revision of the subject, with a view to a new law, that might put the distilleries of England and Scotland, respectively, on a fair and equitable footing. For the present, however, a bill was passed for imposing "six-pence per gallon on all spirits brewed or made from corn, malt, grain, or tilts; or from cyder, perry, or other wash or liquor, made or brewed from any sort of British materials; or from wort or wash made from melasses or sugar; or from foreign refused wine, or any mixture from the strength of one to ten over hydrometer proof, which shall be imported into England from that part of Great Britain called Scotland."

The commercial intercourse between the subjects of his Majesty's dominions, and the inhabitants of the countries belonging to the United States of America, and of the foreign islands in the West Indies, had been hitherto carried on under the authority of annual acts of Parliament; but it was at this time very wisely proposed to subject that part of it which related to the trade carried on between the United States and the British West India Islands to more permanent regulations. Every one had naturally desired, if it were possible, that the supply of lumber, grain, provisions and fish, for the use of the West India Islands, might be conveyed in British bottoms for the benefit and increase of our navigation; but it had been a matter of doubt with many, whether a sufficient supply of these articles could be procured, if American ships were excluded from our islands. The experience, however, of five years had at length proved that such apprehensions were without foundation; for so long had the experiment been tried; and the result was, that under such a regulation the trade had flourished and improved

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1788 so much, that it was, during the last year, carried on to a much more considerable extent than in any year preceding the late war. The quantity of lumber and provisions sent from America to the West India Islands had been fully sufficient for their supply, and our rum fetched a better price than it had hitherto done. From this policy also of employing British bottoms only, the planters had reaped great advantages, and the navigation of the empire had been increased, as we now employ every year near 40,000 tons of shipping, and near 5,000 seamen in that trade alone. On these principles a bill was brought into Parliament, on the 12th of February, to settle the commercial intercourse between the United States of America and the British West India Islands on a more permanent footing. In the course of the debate on this subject, it was asserted by Mr. Alderman Watson, one of the representatives of the city of London, that, although the British West India Islands could not yet be wholly supplied with provisions and lumber without the aid of America, he was confident that, in a very short time, Canada would be able to furnish them wholly with provisions, and New Brunswick with lumber.

It had been resolved, in the month of October 1787, when his Majesty had reason to be alarmed, and to look with more than common anxiety to the safety and preservation of every part of the British dominions, to send out four additional regiments for the better protection of our Indian possessions; nor was the design taken up as a temporary, but with a view to a permanent establishment of his Majesty's troops in India. At that time, no unwillingness to receive the regiments on board the Company's ships and provide for their support in India, had been intimated by the Court of Directors; but, on the contrary, the measure had been considered as a wise one, and the suggestion of it had given universal satisfaction. Since, however, the threatening storm had been dispersed, far different sentiments prevailed. Some of the Directors, at least, were of opinion, that unless they made a requisition to Government for further military assistance, they had it in their option to bear, or to refuse to bear, the expence of any additional regiments of his Majesty's army which might be sent to India; and this opinion seemed to be, in a great measure, grounded on the act of 1784, by which the East India Company were bound to pay for such of his Majesty's troops as had, by their requisition, been sent to India. This idea had been much agitated without doors, and the Directors had thought proper to consult different Counsel of eminence on the subject.

In this business two questions naturally arose.—First, Whether the King had a right to send his troops to any part of his dominions; and secondly, If he sent them to India, who ought to defray the expence? That his Majesty had an undoubted right, by his royal prerogative, to direct the distribution of his army, no one can, with any colour of reason, dispute. The only point, therefore, which offered itself for discussion was, whether, if his Majesty, by virtue of his prerogative, thought proper to send four additional regiments to India, the expence of sending them, and their support, ought to be provided for out of the revenues of India, which they protected. It was certainly the opinion of Ministers, that by the act of 1784, the authority and power of the Court of Directors, touching the military and political concerns of India, and also the collection, management, and application of the revenues of the territorial possessions, was transferred to the Board of Controul, which might direct the appropriation of these revenues, in the manner that to them should appear to be most for the public advantage; but as doubts had been entertained by others, and the opinions of Counsel, confirming those doubts, had been taken, all of which had gone abroad into the world, it was considered as a necessary measure to call upon the different branches of the legislature to remove

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1788 those doubts in the most effectual way by a bill. It was certainly very evident that, on the present occasion, the four regiments might, on board the Company's ships, be sent out to India at a very inconsiderable expence; whereas, if transports had been specially provided for that purpose, the expence must have been enormous. To oblige the Company, therefore, to pay the expence out of their Indian revenues, as had already been intimated to them by the Commissioners of Controul, the Chancellor of the Exchequer moved, on the 5th of February, "That leave be given to bring in a bill for removing any doubts respecting the power of the commissioners for the affairs of India, to direct that the expence of raising, transporting, and maintaining such troops as may be judged necessary for the security of the British territories and possessions in the East Indies, should be defrayed out of the revenues arising from the said territories and possessions." This bill was supported and opposed in every stage of it by all the great abilities of both houses, and at length received the Royal assent.

A bill to prevent the exportation of wool, underwent, in the course of this session, a great deal of parliamentary discussion, both in debate and at the bar of the House. The question seemed to turn upon the superior claim to advantage possessed by the wool-grower and the manufacturer. It appeared, after all, from the arguments on both sides, that the wool-grower had but little to hope, and the manufacturers much to fear from its rejection; it was therefore a more prudent measure to keep pace with the fears that were great, than with the hopes that were little. The bill accordingly passed.

On the 6th day of May, the following resolutions, relative to the East India Company, were agreed to in the House of Commons:

"First, That it appears, that the sum total of debts owing by the East India Company, in the different settlements in the East Indies, exclusive of the sums for which bills have been granted, payable on the Court of Directors at home, in pursuance of their orders of the 15th of September, 1785, amounted, according to the latest accounts received in England, to the sum of 7 crore, 62 lacks, 21,563 current rupees.

"Secondly, That it appears, that the annual amount of interest payable on the said debts in India, was 53 lacks, 53,341 current rupees.

"Thirdly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, and from Benares and Oude, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, post office collections, Benares revenue, Oude subsidy, land revenues, customs, and the receipts for the sales of salt and opium, amounted, on the average of three years, from 178 $\frac{2}{3}$ to 178 $\frac{4}{3}$ to the sum of 5 crore, 21 lacks, 88,146 current rupees.

"Fourthly, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the East India Company in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and in Benares and Oude, under the heads of civil, military and marine, the charges of collecting the revenues and customs, and the advances and charges on account of salt and opium, for the year 178 $\frac{7}{8}$ are estimated, by the Governor General and Council of Bengal, to amount to 3 crore, 6 lacks, 62,401 current rupees.

"That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, and from Benares and Oude, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, post office collections, Benares revenue, Oude subsidy, land revenue, customs, and the receipts from the sales of salt and opium, which were estimated, for the year 178 $\frac{6}{8}$, to amount, in the whole, to 3 crore, 85 lacks, 1,858 current rupees, amounted in the whole for the said year, to 3 crore, 99 lacks, 19,710 current rupees.

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"Sixthly, That it appears, that the charges defrayed by the said Company in the said provinces, and in Benares and Oude under the respective heads of civil, military and marine, the charges of buildings and fortifications, of collecting the revenues and customs, and the advances and charges on account of salt and opium, which were estimated, for the year 1786, to amount in the whole, to 1 crore, 93 lacks, 36,103 current rupees, amounted in the whole for the said year, to 1 crore, 98 lacks, 89,933 current rupees.

"Seventhly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, at the Presidency of Fort St. George, and the settlements subordinate thereto, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the heads of mint or coinage duties, sea or land customs, subsidy of the Nabob of Arcot and Rajah of Tanjore, land revenues, and farms and licences, amounted, on an average of three years, from 1783 to 1785, to the sum of 25 lacks, 76,805 pagodas.

"Eighthly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, at the Presidency of Fort St. George, and the settlements subordinate thereto, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the same heads, for the year 1787, are estimated, by the Governor and Council of Madras, to amount to the sum of 32 lacks, 73,041 pagodas.

"Ninthly, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the said Company, at the Presidency of Fort St. George, and in the Carnatic and Northern Circars, under the respective heads of civil, military, buildings and fortifications, and the charges of collecting the revenues and customs for the year 1787, are estimated, by the Governor and Council of Madras, to amount to the sum of 31 lacks, 77,785 pagodas.

"Tenthly, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, at the Presidency of Bombay, and the settlements subordinate thereto, under the heads of land revenues, customs and farms or licences, for the year 1787, are estimated, by the Governor and Council of Bombay, at the sum of 11 lacks, 76,601 Bombay rupees.

"Eleventh, That it appears, that the annual charges to be defrayed by the East India Company, at the Presidency of Bombay, and the settlements subordinate thereto, in the year 1787, are estimated, by the Governor and Council at Bombay, at 36 lacks, 51,245 Bombay rupees.

"Twelfth, That it appears, that the annual revenues of the East India Company, at the Presidency of Fort Marlborough and its dependencies, arising from customs, farms and licences, amounted, on an average of three years, from 1783 to 1785, to the sum of 10,115 dollars."

The humanity of Parliament, supported by that of the nation, had, during this session, paid a very particular attention to that branch of commerce which relates to a traffic in the human specie. The slave trade has long been considered as disgraceful to an enlightened age, and in this country a spirit is arisen which seems bent on annihilating it altogether, or so changing the nature of it, as to blend humanity with the policy. It was, however, a subject of too comprehensive a nature, and too materially connected with our African commerce and West India colonies, to come to an immediate decision upon it. The philanthropic spirit of Parliament, therefore, was obliged to content itself for the present with a temporary bill to regulate the shipping and carrying slaves in British vessels from the coast of Africa. The final arrangement of this important business, in which the honour of the British commerce and the British character, as well as the happiness of millions of our sable African brethren is involved, will take place at a period to which this volume will not reach. The passing this bill was the last act of the session, which was concluded on the 11th of July by a gracious speech from the throne.

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The following are the principal articles in the treaty of commerce, entered into between Portugal and Russia, which was ratified the 18th of June, 1788.

“ Article II. The subjects of Portugal shall enjoy in Russia a perfect liberty of conscience, agreeable to the principles of that full tolerance which is there granted to all religions; they shall freely discharge their duties, and attend to the worship of their religion, as well in their own houses as the public churches established there, without at any time experiencing the least difficulty in that respect. The subjects of Russia, in like manner, shall never be disturbed in Portugal in regard to their religion, and they shall have observed towards them, in this point, what is practised with the subjects of other nations of a different communion, particularly with those of Great Britain.

“ III. Their Majesties mutually engage to procure to the respective subjects of each other, all the facilities, assistance, and protection necessary to the progress of their reciprocal commerce, and above all of a direct navigation between the two states in all places under their dominion, where navigation and commerce are actually or hereafter may be permitted to the other European nations: but, in all cases wherein the present treaty shall not stipulate some exemptions or privileges in favour of the respective subjects, they must submit, in their commerce, as well by sea, land, or on the rivers, to the office tariffs, as also to the laws, customs, and regulations of the place where they shall find themselves.

“ IV. In all the ports of the respective states where entry and commerce are open to European nations, the high contracting powers shall have a right to establish consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls for the advantage of their commercial subjects: the said consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls, shall there enjoy all the protection of the laws; and though they shall not exercise any kind of jurisdiction, they may nevertheless be chosen, at the will of the parties, as arbitrators of their differences; but it shall always be free to the same parties to address themselves on preference to the tribunal destined for commerce, or other tribunals, to which the said consuls-general, consuls, and vice-consuls, in what concerns their own affairs, shall be equally subordinate; and they shall never be chosen among the native subjects of the power with whom they reside, unless an express permission be obtained to admit them in that quality.

“ V. The subjects of the two contracting powers may assemble in the respective states with their consul in a factory, and make among themselves, for the common interest of the body, such convenient arrangements as shall not be contrary to the laws, statutes, or regulations of the country or place where they shall be established.

“ VI. The commercial subjects of the two high contracting powers shall pay for their merchandize, in the respective states, those duties and other rights fixed by the tariffs actually in force, or which will exist at any time to come: but to the end that their commerce may be more and more encouraged, they have agreed on both sides to grant the following advantages:

“ 1. On the part of Russia. That the subjects of Portugal may pay the custom-house duties, throughout the whole empire of Russia, in the current money of Russia, valuing the rixdollar at 125 copecs, without being obliged to pay them, as heretofore, in effective rixdollars, with exception only of the city and port of Riga, where, according to the tenor of ordinances actually in force, the subjects of Russia themselves must pay the custom-house duties, for every species of merchandize, in effective rixdollars.

“ 2. All wines the growth of Portugal, or of the isles of Madeira and the Azores, imported at Russia in Portuguese or Russian vessels, or for account of Portuguese or Russian subjects, shall

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1788 shall not pay as duty of entry more than four rubles and fifty copecs per barrique of six ankers; but neither shall enjoy this advantage except on producing certificates from the consul of Russia, or in defect of him, from the custom-house or magistrate of the place from whence the said wines shall be dispatched, which must demonstrate that they are veritably the growth of the places above-mentioned, and for account of Portuguese or Russian subjects. As to the wines above-mentioned, which shall be imported into Russia, in other foreign ships, the general tariff prescribed on this subject will be adhered to.

“ 3. Her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias consents that Portuguese ships shall import every year, at Riga and Revel, during the continuance of the present treaty, 6,000 lasts of Portugal salt, paying for that commodity but half the duty fixed by the tariffs existing, or which hereafter may exist, in the above ports; if they should, however, import a greater quantity, they shall pay for the surplus the entire custom-house duties without any diminution. As to the rest, Portuguese ships shall enjoy this advantage only on condition of producing certificates in due form, proving that the said salt is truly the product of Portugal, that it has been exported directly in Portuguese vessels, and on account of Portugal or Russian subjects. But if by raising the duties it is found that the privileged quantity of salt imported into the two ports of Riga and Revel shall together exceed, in the course of the same year, the 6,000 lasts agreed upon (which will be against the spirit of this treaty) the two courts will adopt between them arrangements to prevent such abuses thereafter.

“ VII. In reciprocity of the above concessions, her Most Faithful Majesty grants to the subjects of Russia the following advantages :

“ 1. Russian merchants, now or hereafter to be established in Portugal, shall have the privilege of conservatory judges on the same footing as according to the English nation; but, if her Most Faithful Majesty should think it proper to make a new regulation on this subject for all foreign negotiants established in her states, without exception, the subjects of Russia must submit thereto.

“ 2. They shall also have a right to address themselves to the junto of commerce on mercantile affairs, where a prompt and strict justice will be rendered, after the verification of facts, without the other formalities in ordinary proceedings, according to the laws and usages practised amongst merchants; for which purpose her Most Faithful Majesty will grant, when occasions present themselves, the necessary jurisdiction to the above-mentioned junto of commerce.

“ 3. Portuguese or Russian negotiants shall only pay half the duties of entry (under whatever denominations they may be) as they are fixed by the tariffs and ordinances which actually or shall hereafter exist in Portugal, on the productions of Russia specified hereunder, when imported in Portuguese or Russian vessels, and for account of Portuguese or Russian subjects; to wit: all sorts of plants and timbers designed for the construction of ships, the masts comprised therein; hemp; the grain and oil of hemp and linseed; bars of iron of all sorts and dimensions; iron hoops are comprised, also anchors, cannons, bullets, and bombs: but the respective subjects will not enjoy diminution of impost save on proving (by certificates in due form from the Portuguese consul, or in defect of him, from the custom-house or magistrate of the quarter whence the above merchandize shall be sent) that they are really the product or manufacture of Russia, and exported on account of Portuguese or Russian subjects. Those advantages will not be allowed to other foreign ships which shall import into Portugal said merchandize of Russia, but what the general tariffs prescribe in this respect will be adhered to.

“ 4. If

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" 4. If during this treaty her Most Faithful Majesty grants to the ships of another nation any diminution of the duties on exportation of wines, the Russian ships shall enjoy the same benefit on wines exported to the ports of Russia.

" VIII. Besides the reciprocal advantages stipulated by the preceding articles, the high contracting parties have further thought proper, for the better encouragement of a direct navigation and commerce between the Portuguese and Russian nations, to grant to their respective subjects the following privileges:—Her Most Faithful Majesty agrees to a diminution of half the custom duties fixed by the existing tariffs, or any which may hereafter exist, on the merchandize of Russia specified under, when imported directly from Russia into Portugal, to wit: sail cloths of linen, named Olaams, or Flaemisch, Ravendoucs, and Calamandars; on condition of proving by certificates in due form, that the said merchandises are truly the product of Russia, imported directly in Portuguese or Russian vessels, and for account of Portuguese or Russian subjects.

" To reciprocate those advantages, her Imperial Majesty of all the Russias grants a diminution of half the duties which do or may hereafter exist in her states on the following merchandises of Portugal, when imported directly from Portugal into Russia, viz. oil of olives, Brazil indigo, the tobacco of Brazil in powder, rolls, or leaf, on condition of proving in like manner, by proper certificates, that the said merchandises are really the products of Portugal, exported in Portuguese or Russian vessels, and for account of Portuguese and Russian subjects.

" IX. As there are other effects and merchandises, the production and manufacture of Portugal and her colonies, and of Russia and her domains and conquests, which may augment the navigation and commerce of the two nations, and contribute to their mutual advantage, their Most Faithful and Imperial Majesties, taking this object into their high consideration, have ordered their respective Ministers to examine and consult on all and every of the said effects and merchandises; and from all that shall be adjusted and agreed on one part and the other, new articles will be made, which, when approved of and ratified by the two contracting powers, shall become a part of this treaty, as if included and transcribed therein word for word."

DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE between His Majesty the King of GREAT BRITAIN, and their High Mightinesses the States General of the UNITED PROVINCES.

" THE mutual and sincere friendship, which has so long subsisted between his Majesty the King of Great Britain, and the Lords the States General of the United Provinces, having been increased and strengthened by the interest, which his Britannic Majesty has lately manifested in the preservation of the independence of the Republic, and of its legal constitution, his said Majesty, and the said Lords the States General of the United Provinces, have resolved, in order to cement, in the most solid and lasting manner, the good harmony, confidence and correspondence between them, to form permanent engagements, by a treaty of defensive alliance, for the good of both parties, and for the maintenance of the general tranquillity, as well as of their own in particular. To accomplish so salutary a purpose, his Majesty the King of Great Britain has named and authorized Sir James Harris, Privy Councillor, Knight of the Bath, Member of the Parliament of Great Britain, and his Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to their High Mightinesses; and their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Provinces, have named and authorized their Deputies for Foreign Affairs; who, after communicating to each other their full powers in due form, and having conferred together, have agreed upon the following articles:

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“ Art. I. There shall be a sincere, firm, and constant friendship and union between his Britannic Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the Lords the States General of the United Provinces, so that the high contracting parties shall direct their utmost attention to maintain this mutual attention and correspondence between them, and their dominions and subjects; and they engage to contribute, as far as shall be in their power, mutually to preserve and defend each other in peace and tranquillity.

“ II. In case either of the high contracting parties should be hostilely attacked by any European power, in any part of the world whatsoever, the other contracting party engages to succour its ally, as well by sea as by land, in order to maintain and guaranty each other mutually in the possession of all the dominions, territories, towns, places, franchises and liberties, which belonged to them respectively before the commencement of hostilities.

“ III. His Britannic Majesty guaranties, in the most effectual manner, the Hereditary Stadholderate, as well as the office of Hereditary Governor of each Province in the Serene House of Orange, with all the rights and prerogatives thereto belonging, as forming an essential part of the constitution of the United Provinces, according to the resolutions and diplomas of the years 1747 and 1748, by virtue of which the present Stadholder entered into the possession of those offices in 1766, and was reinstated therein in 1788; engaging to maintain that form of government against all attacks and enterprises, direct or indirect, of whatsoever nature they may be.

“ IV. The succours mentioned in the second article of this Treaty of Defensive Alliance, shall consist, on the part of his Britannic Majesty, of 8,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 12 ships of the line, and 8 frigates; and, on the part of the States General, of 5,000 infantry, 1,000 cavalry, 8 ships of the line, and 8 frigates: which respective succours shall be furnished in the space of two months after requisition made by the party attacked, and shall remain at its disposal during the whole continuance of the war in which it shall be engaged, whilst those succours (whether ships and frigates, or troops) shall be paid and maintained by the power of whom they shall be required, where-ever its ally shall employ them.

“ V. In case the stipulated succours should not be sufficient for the defence of the power requiring them, the power to whom requisition shall be made, shall successively augment them, according to the wants of its ally, whom it shall assist, even with its whole force, if circumstances should render it necessary; but it is expressly agreed, in all cases, that the contingent of the Lords the States General shall not exceed 10,000 infantry, 2,000 cavalry, 16 ships of the line, and 16 frigates.

“ VI. But as it may happen (considering the distance of several of the possessions of the two high contracting parties) that the advantages which ought to result to them reciprocally from the conclusion of the present treaty, may become illusory, unless measures can be taken for the mutual defence of those possessions, before their respective governors could receive orders from Europe for that purpose; it is stipulated and agreed, that in case either of them should be hostilely attacked, or even menaced with an hostile attack, in its possessions, whether in Africa or in Asia, by an European power, the governors of their settlements in those two parts of the world shall be enjoined to concert together the succour to be furnished, and, in case of need, to furnish such succour, in the most speedy and effectual manner, to the party attacked; and that orders to that effect shall be expedited to the said governors immediately after the conclusion of the present treaty: and in case the two high contracting parties should be obliged to

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1788 furnish the aforesaid succours, they shall not permit the ships of war, of what nature they may be, of the power attacking, to enter into any of their ports in the aforesaid settlements, until peace shall be restored between the party attacking, and the ally of the contracting party, unless the said vessels be forced to take refuge there, to avoid perishing, or being shipwrecked.

“ VII. If it should happen that the two high contracting parties shall be equally involved in a war against a common enemy, they reciprocally promise each other not to disarm but by common consent; and they shall communicate to each other confidentially the proposals for a peace, or truce, which may be made.

“ VIII. If the high contracting parties prefer furnishing their succours of troops in money, they shall be at liberty on each side so to do; and then such succours shall be computed at 100,000 florins, Dutch currency, per annum, for 1,000 infantry, and at 120,000 florins, of the like value, for 1,000 cavalry, per annum, and in the same proportion by the month.

“ IX. The power requiring shall be obliged, whether the ships, frigates and troops with which it shall have been furnished, remain for a long or short time in its ports, to provide whatever they may want, at the same price as if they belonged to such power itself. It has been agreed, that the said troops or ships shall not, in any case, be at the expence of the party requiring, but that they shall nevertheless remain at its disposal, during the whole continuance of the war in which it shall be engaged. The succours above-mentioned shall, with respect to discipline, be subject to the orders of the chief officer who commands them; and they shall not be employed separately, or otherwise than in concert with the said commanding officer: with regard to the operations, they shall be wholly subject to the orders of the commander in chief of the power requiring.

“ X. It is agreed, that until the two powers conclude a treaty of commerce with each other, the subjects of the Republic shall be treated, in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, as the most favoured nation; and the same shall be observed in the United Provinces towards the subjects of his Britannic Majesty. It is, however, to be understood, that this article is not to extend to a diminution of the import duties payable upon linens.

“ XI. Whereas by the fourth article of the treaty of peace, signed in the month of June, 1784, his Britannic Majesty engages to treat with the Lords the States General for the restitution of Negapatnam, with its dependencies, in case the said Lords the States General should in future have any equivalent to give; and whereas their High Mightinesses have now renewed their request for obtaining that restitution, as well as for settling and determining precisely the sense of the sixth article of that treaty, concerning the navigation of British subjects in the Eastern seas; his Britannic Majesty, in order to manifest his good-will towards the Republic, is disposed to concur in these desires of their High Mightinesses, and even to secure to the Republic additional and real commercial advantages in that part of the world, as soon as an equivalent for those objects can be agreed upon; in return for which, his Britannic Majesty will require nothing but what is favourable to the reciprocal interests and security of the contracting parties in the Indies: and, to prevent the negotiations for such arrangements from retarding the conclusion of the present treaty, it is agreed that they shall be begun as soon as possible, and be concluded in the space of six months from the date of the present treaty; and that the convention to be made thereon shall have the same force as if it was inserted in the treaty itself.

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" XII. The present treaty shall be ratified on each side, and the exchange of the ratifications shall be made in the space of six weeks, or sooner, if it can be done.

" Done at the Hague the 15th of April, 1788.

" (L. S.) JAMES HARRIS.

" (L. S.) J. W. COMTE DE WELDEREN.

" (L. S.) W. F. H. VAN WASSENAER.

" (L. S.) L. P. VAN DE SPIEGEL.

" (L. S.) GUILLAUME DE CITTERS.

" (L. S.) W. N. PESTERS.

" (L. S.) CHARLES BIGOT.

" (L. S.) M. B. C. VAN VOERST V. BORGEL.

The following Treaty between the King of Great Britain and the King of Prussia, was signed on the 13th of August in the present Year.

" Article I. There shall be a perpetual, firm and unalterable friendship, defensive alliance, and strict and inviolable union, together with an intimate and perfect harmony and correspondence between the said Most Serene Kings of Great Britain and Prussia, their heirs and successors, and their respective kingdoms, dominions, provinces, countries and subjects, which shall be carefully maintained and cultivated, so that the contracting powers shall constantly employ, as well their utmost attention, as also those means which Providence has put in their power, for preserving at the same time the public tranquility and security, for maintaining their common interests, and for their mutual defence and guaranty against every hostile attack; the whole in conformity to the treaties already subsisting between the high contracting parties, which shall remain in full force and vigour, and shall be deemed to be renewed by the present treaty, as far as the same shall not be derogated from, with their own consent, by posterior treaties, or by the present treaty.

" II. In consequence of the engagement contracted by the preceding article, the two high contracting parties shall always act in concert for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity; and in case either of them should be threatened with an hostile attack by any power whatever, the other shall employ his most efficacious good offices for preventing hostilities, for procuring satisfaction to the injured party, and for effecting an accommodation in a conciliatory manner.

" III. But if those good offices should not have the desired effect, in the space of two months, and either of the high contracting parties should be hostilely attacked, molested, or disturbed in any of his dominions, rights, possessions, or interests, or in any manner whatever, by sea or land, by any European power, the other contracting party engages to succour his ally without delay, in order to maintain each other reciprocally in the possession of all the dominions, territories, towns and places which belonged to them before the commencement of such hostilities. For which end, if his Prussian Majesty should happen to be attacked, his Majesty the King of Great Britain shall furnish to his Majesty the King of Prussia a succour of 16,000 infantry, and 4,000 cavalry; and if his Britannic Majesty should happen to be attacked, his Majesty the King of Prussia shall likewise furnish to him a succour of 16,000 infantry, and 4,000 cavalry; which respective succours shall be furnished in the space of two months after requisition made by the party attacked, and shall remain at his disposal during the whole continuance of the war in which they shall be engaged. These succours shall be paid and maintained by the required power, wherever his ally shall employ them, in his dominions, with

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1788 such bread and forage as may be necessary, upon the footing to which his own troops are accustomed.

“ It is nevertheless agreed between the high contracting, that if his Britannic Majesty should be in the case of receiving the succour in troops from his Prussian Majesty, his Britannic Majesty shall not employ them out of Europe, nor even in the garrison of Gibraltar.

“ If the injured and requiring party should prefer succours in money to land forces, he shall have his choice; and in case of the two high contracting powers furnishing to each other the stipulated succours in money, such succours shall be computed at 100,000 florins, Dutch currency, per annum, for 1,000 infantry, and at 120,000 florins, of the like value, for 1,000 cavalry, per annum, or in the same proportion by the month.

“ IV. In case the stipulated succours should not be sufficient for the defence of the requiring power, the required power shall augment them, according to the exigency of the case, and shall assist the former with his whole force, if circumstances shall render it necessary.

“ V. The high contracting parties hereby renew, in the most express terms, the provisional treaty or defensive alliance which they concluded at Loo, on the 13th of June in the present year, and they again engage and promise to act, at all times, in concert and with mutual confidence, for maintaining the security, independence and government of the Republic of the United Provinces, conformably to the engagements which they have lately contracted with the said Republic; that his to say, his Britannic Majesty, by a treaty concluded at the Hague, on the 15th of April, 1788, and his Prussian Majesty, by a treaty signed the same day at Berlin, which the said high contracting parties have communicated to each other.

“ And if it shall happen that, by virtue of the stipulations of the said treaties, the high contracting parties should be obliged to augment the succours to be given to the States General, above the numbers specified in the said treaties, or to assist them with their whole force, the said high contracting parties will concert together upon all that may be necessary relative to such augmentation of succours to be agreed on, and to the employment of their respective forces for the security and defence of the said Republic.

“ In case either of the said high contracting parties should, at any time hereafter, be attacked, molested, or disturbed in any of his dominions, rights, possessions, or interests, in any manner whatever, by sea or by land, by any other power, in consequence and in hatred of the articles or stipulations contained in the said treaties, or of the measures to be taken by the said contracting parties respectively, in virtue of those treaties, the other contracting party engages to succour and assist him against such attack, in the same manner, and by the said succours as are stipulated in the third and fourth articles of the present treaty; and the said contracting parties promise, in all similar cases, to maintain and guaranty each other in the possession of all the dominions, towns and places, which belonged to them respectively before the commencement of such hostilities.”

The following financial statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is at once so comprehensive and perspicuous, and exhibits such a complete, fair, and satisfactory view of the state of our national resources and expenditure at this time, that to curtail it, or give it in any other manner, would be an act of injustice both to our readers and the abilities which produced it.

Mr. Pitt said, “ That in laying before the committee an account of the state of the revenues, and particularly of the receipt and expenditure for the year, he was more than usually anxious to gain their attention, and to shew them how truly the calculations had been made, and in how small a compass of time the influence of the arrangement which was adopted had

operated

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1788 operated to the essential benefit of the nation. The statement could not fail to give universal satisfaction to every gentleman who heard him.—He would not detain the committee with any previous matter, but simply state the particulars of the account on both sides, observing, however, in the first place, that a very considerable increase had taken place in the expences of this year beyond the estimate that had been made in the year 1786, and which had been thought essential to our national prosperity and honour. These were not likely to occur again, and, in the mean time, it was a matter of no small satisfaction, that notwithstanding these increased demands and temporary calls, such had been the beneficial effects of the late arrangement, and such the prosperous condition of the country, that ample provision had been made for all, without recurring either to a loan or to new taxes.

He first stated the several articles of supply which had been voted for the service of the present year, and which consisted of the following heads, viz:

	N	A	V	R.	£.
Eighteen thousand seamen,	—	—	—	—	936,000
Ordinary,	—	—	—	—	700,000
Extraordinary,	—	—	—	—	600,000
Making a total of	—	—	—	—	2,236,000
	A	R	M	R.	

Guards and garrisons, plantations and Gibraltar; half pay to the British and American forces, to the amount of 228,000*l.* and to Chelsea pensioners, 173,000*l.* &c. &c. making a total for the army of the present year of 2,022,023

But from which sum 43,000*l.* is to be deducted, on account of stoppages from the troops abroad for provisions supplied them from hence.

Ordnance,	—	—	—	—	419,000
Expence of maintaining convicts,	—	—	—	—	34,000
Annual allowance to American loyalists,	—	—	—	—	74,000
Repayments on addressees, &c.	—	—	—	—	46,000
Civil establishments in America, together with the expences of Somerset-place, African forts, &c.	—	—	—	—	90,000
Deficiency of grants in the year 1787,	—	—	—	—	63,000
Estimated deficiency of land and malt,	—	—	—	—	300,000
Expence of the armament,	—	—	—	—	311,000
Sum voted to pay his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales's debt, &c.	—	—	—	—	181,000
Amounting in the whole to	—	—	—	—	5,779,365

That a further sum has been voted to pay off Exchequer bills, and for deficiencies of several funds, to the 5th of April, 1787, which latter will never occur again, in consequence of the Consolidation act; but as both these sums, to the amount of 6,078,000*l.* are taken on both sides of the account, he omitted them, for the sake of perspicuity.

In this account, it was to be observed, that in the navy there was an increase beyond what would be the necessary peace establishment of 446,000*l.* In the army there was an increase of 233,000*l.* and in the ordnance there was an increase of 61,000*l.* These increased demands were occasioned by the circumstance of our putting the distant possessions of the country into a state

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1788 state of more complete defence, by sending out 3,000 men more than came within the contemplation of the committee, when they made the report of what would be the requisite peace establishment of the navy, and by the consequent extraordinary sum for supplying that body with provisions. These were not then to be considered as the permanent necessary expences of the country: and to these were several sums to be added which could not occur again, or at least could not make a part of our settled yearly expence. Such was the sum for the relief of the loyalists; such the expence of the late armament, and such the vote for the payment of the debts of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. These sums added together, amounted to 1,282,000*l.* which was truly extraordinary, and they were consequently to be deducted from the settled regular peace establishment of the country. It had been considered as wise to put every part of the British dominions into such a posture of defence, as to ascertain to the country the blessings of peace, and he had the happiness to say, that though they had thus incurred an extraordinary expence of more than 1,200,000*l.* the receipts of the country had fully answered it, and that without abating from the plan which the House, in its wisdom, had established for the diminution of the national debt. That the same extraordinary demands would continue in future was not to be apprehended, though, undoubtedly, it would be some time before they could come to the real establishment which, in time of peace, had been thought sufficient for the country in the report that was made in 1786; but it was a happy circumstance, that the condition and prospect of the country warranted him in saying, that they should be able to provide for the extra expence in the years to come, as they had in this, without going into any new operation of finance.

He then stated, that in order to defray these expences, Parliament had already voted,

						<i>£.</i>
Land and malt,	—	—	—	—	—	2,750,000
That he should propose to the committee to vote a farther sum, to be taken as the growing produce of the consolidated fund, between this and the 5th of April, 1788,	—	—	—	—	—	1,845,000
Imprest monies, to be paid in the course of the year,					—	200,000
Army savings of the year 1786,	—	—	—	—	—	200,000
And a farther sum to be repaid by the India Company, on account of troops and victualling the fleet in the East Indies,			—	—	—	500,000
Premium on the lottery,	—	—	—	—	—	258,000
Stoppages from the troops for provisions,		—		—	—	43,000
					Total,	5,796,000

Exchequer bills, and the sum voted for deficiencies, as stated in the supply, 6,078,000

Having gone through the whole of the account, and specified the several sums, he stated that there was a clear surplus this year of 27,000*l.* over all the expences, without taxes, without loan, and without interrupting, for a moment, the application of the million to the discharge of debt. The surplus had been applied; the armament had been provided for; the debts of his Royal Highness had been paid; the extraordinary expence of 1,200,000*l.* had been sustained, and there was a clear surplus of 27,000*l.* The extraordinary expence would, he feared, endure for two years more. It would take so long before they could be certain of coming to the permanent peace establishment. Perhaps he might state the farther extraordinary expence that the nation

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1788 nation was likely to incur for excess of navy, excess of army, excess of ordnance, and indeed for every other article, except one, of a material nature, at a million, or a million and a half; and for this he thought there were ample resources in the revenue, as there had been proved to be for the large excess of the present year.

The other article of extraordinary expence which he meant, was the satisfaction to be made to the American loyalists. The commissioners had now nearly wound up the whole of the claims, and it appeared that there was property lost, which the commissioners had ascertained and agreed to liquidate at 1,860,000*l.* There might yet remain 200,000*l.* or 300,000*l.* to be ascertained. This was to be considered as loss of property. There were also claims of loss of office, which the House would take into their consideration, and act upon as their generosity might incline them: but stating the whole at 2,000,000*l.* or 2,100,000*l.* the House would see that 500,000*l.* had been paid them, and there was still 1,500,000*l.* or 1,600,000*l.* to be paid. He was authorised to say, that they would be well pleased to have this sum paid them by installments, and that the payment should commence next year. He confessed he approved of this arrangement, as the present year was so loaded with excesses; and avoiding to adopt this mode of payment, he meant to propose that the profits of a lottery, to be established annually, until their claims were fully liquidated, should be applied to their relief. A lottery of seven or eight years would fully answer this exigency, provided that the bargain should every year be rendered as profitable as it had for the last year, and for the present. He had made the bargain, on a competition among different bidders, and the profit would be as he had stated it, about 260,000*l.* a year. Gentlemen might be astonished at this circumstance, but such was the rage and madness for this species of gambling, and such was the bargain that he had made.

The probable state of our revenue, and the certain amount of our expence, were matters which came next in order, as, undoubtedly, it would be requisite to prove that we ought to have confidence in our situation. That we should invariably proceed in applying the million to the diminution of the national debt, was a proposition which he would not detain the House for a moment in discussing, as it had already so forcibly demonstrated its utility. The million was, therefore, added to the permanent establishment of the country, and as the House had, in its wisdom, established a larger system of defence than was in contemplation two years ago, he would state the permanent peace establishment of the country, instead of 15,478,000*l.* as calculated by the committee, 15,624,000*l.* He explained the rise to proceed from the increased plantation estimate, which would cost 100,000*l.* more than it was taken at, and the Hessian subsidy, which was 36,000*l.* There was to be deducted from this sum a saving interest of about 16,000*l.* a year, which made the excess about 120,000*l.* only, but he took it at 124,000*l.* calculating the anticipated establishment at 15,500,000*l.* The produce of the last year's revenue, up to the period ending the fifth of April, including the land and malt, was 15,792,000*l.* which was 314,000*l.* more than the committee said would be necessary for an establishment, and it was 168,000*l.* more than was necessary, even by the increased establishment, which the House had thought it wise to adopt, and which perhaps political circumstances had rendered requisite.

Arguing, therefore, from the experience of last year, we had the fairest ground for confidence, that we should not only enjoy ample funds for the liquidation of every expence, but also for carrying on the great purpose of the late arrangement, the extinction of the capital of our debt: but perhaps it might be argued, that it was not a fair mode of stating our situation, nor a rational ground of confidence, to argue from the evidence of one year only. He begged leave

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1788 leave to remind the Committee, that the last year had many unfriendly circumstances in it, particularly the interruption which our commerce naturally received in the late alarm of war: but, even looking back to the average of the last three years, they found the calculation strongly confirmed, though certainly the surplus was not so favourable: yet we had other very essential grounds of confidence; various branches of revenue were improving, and many more were susceptible of improvement. The farming of the post horse duty brought an accession of 30,000*l.* to the funds. He must yet, before the close of the session, propose an increase of duty on the stills used in the distillery of Scotland, which would necessarily add something to the revenue; and an increase on the duty on houses for selling spirituous liquors, would also give something more. There were other objects which, perhaps, it was now too late to touch on, but which certainly merited the regard of that House. One in particular was a very productive source—he meant tobacco. Some regulations to prevent the abuses practised to avoid the duty on tobacco, were essentially necessary. He had it in his view to propose something on this subject, but he was not yet fully adequate to the attempt. It required very great care, and very nice discussion; but which, though he was obliged to pass it for the present, he would not overlook nor forget. There were other objects which ought to give them firm and steady confidence.

The progressive nature of a country in peace, and particularly of such a country as England, was a material object, and this was not left for mere speculation. But, by the fortunate experience of four years we were able to form some estimate. We had been at peace five years. The receipt of the permanent taxes in the year 1787 had been 15,792,000*l.* including the land and malt, or 13,000,000*l.* exclusive. The receipt of the taxes in the year 1783, exclusive of the land and malt, had been 10,184,000*l.* Thus there was an increased revenue of 3,000,000*l.* of which not more than one million and a half accrued from new taxes; the rest proceeded from the actual, clear, and ascertained improvement of the country in all its branches, and which demonstrated the increased opulence of the empire. Every department presented the same progressive improvement. In the trade, the navigation, and the fisheries, the progressive improvement bore an exact proportion to the increased revenue: so that our exports and imports, with the great loss of the American Colonies, upon which some persons had so much depended—with the immense loss for ever of the money that was lavished on the war—with the loss of the people—our exports and imports were now as great as in the most flourishing year before the last war.

	In the year 1772,					£.
Our imports were upwards of	—	—	—	—	—	14,500,000
Our exports upwards of	—	—	—	—	—	16,000,000
In 1773,						
The imports were,	—	—	—	—	—	12,000,000
The exports,	—	—	—	—	—	16,000,000
These were the greatest years before the war.						
In 1786,						
The imports were	—	—	—	—	—	15,786,000
The exports	—	—	—	—	—	16,300,000
In 1787,						

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Perhaps it might be said, that in these comparative statements the balance was against us in the latter years; but the increase of the imports arose from the home consumption of luxuries; it proceeded from the beneficial import of raw materials used in our manufactures; and it might be considered as a very pleasing circumstance attending the increased imports, that they chiefly came from a part of our own empire—they came from Ireland.

In like manner our navigation has increased. Our valuable fishery in particular had improved with much rapidity. The Newfoundland fishery, that great nursery of our seamen, was in a most flourishing condition.

In 1773 and 1774 it produced 516,000 quintals, and in 1786, the produce was 732,000.

In 1773, the tonnage in the Greenland fishery was 27,000, and in 1786 it was 53,000.

In 1773, the number of ships was 96,—in 1786 the number was increased to 153,—and in 1787, with the reduced bounty, the number was 284.

The number of men employed in this fishery in 1786, was 6,600. He had not heard the precise number in 1787, but from the increase of tonnage, it could not be less than 10,000.—The Southern Whale fishery, a new and very valuable branch of trade, which we only took up at the beginning of the last war, had also equally prospered, and added to the revenues by augmenting the opulence of the country.

In this fishery, in 1785, there were employed 18 ships, producing 29,000l.

In 1787 there were employed 38 ships, producing 107,000l.

He mentioned these circumstances, to prove that our improved condition came from no forced revenues, but was the fair and actual result of increased commerce. We had thus ascertained a surplus, after having appropriated a million to the payment of our debt. We had given great additional strength to our foreign possessions, and, in doing this, we had not overlooked that which was the favourite service at home. No less than 7,000,000l. had, in the course of four years, been expended in the improvement of the navy; and he took upon him to say, that it had been applied with as much fidelity as it had been voted with judgment.—There were, he would pledge himself to prove, 30 ships of the line, and 35 frigates, built or repaired, more than there were in the first four years after the peace of 1763. In addition to this, we had absolutely and for ever extinguished two millions and a half of our debt.

Our rival, France, who had interfered in the dispute with our late colonies,—who had projected to herself such immense advantages, and who certainly had advantages in it, he was now able to prove, had gained less by the war than she expected, and that we had suffered less than had been anticipated. He had, within a few hours, seen the acknowledged state of the French finances, as drawn forth and exhibited by the French Government. By this account, the avowed annual deficiency of revenue to answer their necessary expences, after all the retrenchments they had made, was upwards of 2,300,000l. sterling. Their receipt was acknowledged to be somewhat above 400,000,000 of livres, or about 20,000,000l. sterling. Their expence was confessed to be 527,255,000 of livres, or 22,900,000l. In the same statement, there was a plan devised for an annual loan of five or six years to come, which, with a variety of projected retrenchments, was held out as sufficient to wind up the effects of their derangement. He mentioned this, simply to shew the comparative condition of the two countries; and surely it afforded some matter of pride to England, that its rival, who had thus interfered without provocation, had been so thoroughly disappointed in the views which she had in the conflict."

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It appears, from the best authority, that the following is a correct statement of the number of slaves in the several West India Islands now in the possession of Great Britain.

							<i>Number.</i>
In Jamaica,	—	—	—	—	—	—	174,000
— Barbadoes,	—	—	—	—	—	—	80,000
— Antigua,	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,000
— Grenada and the Grenadines,	—	—	—	—	—	—	40,000
— St. Christophers,	—	—	—	—	—	—	27,000
— St. Vincents,	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,000
— Dominica,	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,000
— Anguilla, Tortola, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,000
— Nevis,	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000
— Montserrat,	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,000
Total,							410,000

The negroes in the French West India Islands were, in the year 1777, computed at 386,500. The Abbé Raynal states the whole number of African slaves in America and the West India Islands at 1,400,000. The constant annual importation, and of course the annual consumption of negroes in the West India Islands, is supposed to have been, of late years, on an average, 60,000. The Slave Trade first began about the year 1503, and the English took it up about 1556. The Abbé Raynal states the total importation from Africa at about 9,000,000 of slaves.

The following statement of population in the principal cities of Europe, taken at the distance of a century, has been collected from the most approved and accurate accounts that have been published on the subject.

	<i>Number of Souls in 1688.</i>						<i>In 1788.</i>
In London,	—	—	—	—	—	696,000	1,100,000
— Paris,	—	—	—	—	—	488,000	800,000
— Marfeilles	—	—	—	—	—	200,000	180,000
— Lyons,	—	—	—	—	—	250,000	150,000
— Naples,	—	—	—	—	—	200,000	354,000
— Rome,	—	—	—	—	—	200,000	157,400
— Amsterdam,	—	—	—	—	—	187,000	185,000
— Venice,	—	—	—	—	—	134,000	100,000
— Bourdeaux,	—	—	—	—	—	100,000	200,000
— Dublin,	—	—	—	—	—	69,000	170,000
— Rouen,	—	—	—	—	—	66,000	100,000
— Bristol,	—	—	—	—	—	48,000	50,000
— Cork,	—	—	—	—	—	40,000	90,000
— Liverpool,	—	—	—	—	—	20,000	60,000

By this statement it appears, that the cities of London, Paris, Naples, Bourdeaux, Dublin, Rouen, Bristol, Cork, and the town of Liverpool have increased; and that Marfeilles, Lyons, Rome, Amsterdam and Venice, have decayed in their population; from which circumstance,

Naples

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1788 Naples from the fifth is become the third; Bourdeaux from the ninth is become the fourth; and Dublin from the tenth to the seventh in rank, as to the number of inhabitants.

An Authentic Account of the Duties collected on Coals brought Coastways into each Port in England, in this Year.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Aberystwith, —	362	3	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	Looe, —	243	10	6
Aldborough, —	902	15	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyme, —	1,215	0	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Arundel, —	1,332	4	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	Leigh, —	1,415	14	0
Barnstaple, —	1,243	3	6	Lynn, —	22,185	8	10
Beaumaris, —	2,637	6	11	Malden, —	4,891	6	3
Berwick, —	43	9	0	Milford, —	594	15	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biddeford, —	786	3	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Minehead, —	975	15	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Boston, —	8,031	7	6	Newhaven, —	1,421	16	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bridgewater, —	2,385	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Padstow, —	606	15	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bridlington, —	1,047	7	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Penryn, —	437	13	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bristol, —	452	15	1	Penzance, —	863	18	1
Cardiff, —	94	4	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	Plymouth, —	5,947	15	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cardigan, —	105	17	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Poole, —	3,077	4	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Chepstow, —	9	1	11	Portsmouth, —	6,880	5	8
Chester, —	20	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Poulton, —	31	18	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chichester, —	1,985	15	1	Rocheſter, —	9,470	4	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cley, —	2,287	14	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rye, —	2,029	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Colcheſter, —	3,785	11	3	St. Ives, —	2,504	3	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cowes, —	1,537	7	11	Sandwich, —	3,263	19	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dartmouth, —	2,628	11	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Scarborough, —	2,177	15	5
Deal, —	961	10	9	Shoreham, —	2,051	0	8
Dover, —	2,615	3	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Southampton, —	7,265	17	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Exeter, —	6,172	14	10	Southwold, —	1,079	18	6
Falmouth, —	695	18	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	Stockton, —	117	18	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Faversham, —	4,560	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Swanſea, —	37	13	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fowey, —	1,340	3	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Truro, —	5,743	10	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Glouceſter, —	212	3	3	Wells, —	2,405	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gweek, —	184	6	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	Weymouth, —	1,553	17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Harwich, —	4,594	1	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Whitby, —	6,523	6	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hull, —	385	7	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	Whitehaven, —	94	18	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ilfracombe, —	300	14	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Wiſbeach, —	5,978	4	6
Ipswich, —	6,211	8	6	Woodbridge, —	1,961	13	3
Lancaſter, —	1,389	19	10	Yarmouth, —	16,396	7	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
				Total,	182,745	15	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

In order to come at the quantity of coals, each ſum muſt be divided by 5s. 6d. which is the duty per chaldron in the Out Ports.

A. D.
1788

An Account of the Quantity of Coals imported into the Port of London in the following Years.

Years.					Chaldrons.	Vats.	Busbels.
In 1786,	—	—	—	—	759,972	3	0
— 1787,	—	—	—	—	750,662	3	0
— 1788,	—	—	—	—	764,272	3	3

An Account of the Quantity of Coals exported from Great Britain in the following Years.

Years.	Newcastle Measure.				Winton Measure.	
	Chaldrons.	Busbels.			Chaldrons.	Busbels.
In 1786,	—	102,367	6	—	212,136	15
— 1787,	—	104,615	44	—	175,075	6½

The quantity of coals exported in 1788, was not made up when this account was taken.

The Number of Vessels which entered the Port of Bourdeaux in the course of this year, is as follows :

From the West Indies, Africa and Newfoundland,	—	—	284
Coasters,	—	—	4,040
Strangers,	—	—	336
		In all	4,660

The following Ships arrived at Lisbon during this Year.

Portuguese	—	283	Venetian,	—	11
English,	—	351	Ragufians,	—	6
French,	—	174	Hamburghers,	—	5
Hollanders,	—	89	Imperial,	—	3
Denmark,	—	87	Bremeners,	—	3
Swedes,	—	34	Prussian,	—	1
Spanish,	—	31	Russian,	—	1
American,	—	59	Dantzickers,	—	1
			In all		1,109

Notwithstanding we have given, from Time to Time, a particular Detail of the annual Imports and Exports of Great Britain, we shall close that important Source of Information by the following authentic TABLE, made up from the Custom-House Accounts, which gives, at one View, the Totals of the British Imports and Exports from the commencement of the present Century to the Year 1788.

Years.	Imports.			Exports.			Excess.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1700	5,970,175	1	10	7,302,716	8	7	1,332,541	6	8
1701	5,869,606	9	10	7,621,053	6	5	1,751,446	16	7
1702	4,159,304	16	0	5,235,874	0	5	1,076,569	4	5
1703	4,526,596	11	1	6,644,103	6	0	2,117,506	14	11

A. D.
1788

Years.	Imports.			Exports.			Excess.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1704	5,383,200	16	5	6,552,019	18	2	1,168,819	1	8
1705	4,031,649	14	10	5,501,677	11	2	1,470,027	16	4
1706	4,113,933	3	3	6,512,086	17	1	2,398,153	13	9
1707	4,274,055	10	4	6,767,178	8	6	2,493,122	18	2
1708	4,698,663	11	8	6,969,089	19	1	2,270,426	7	5
1709	4,510,593	11	8	6,627,045	17	6	2,116,452	5	9
1710	4,011,341	7	4	6,690,828	15	2	2,679,487	7	10
1711	4,685,785	17	7	6,447,170	16	3	1,761,384	18	7
1712	4,454,682	11	6	7,468,857	5	1	3,014,174	13	6
1713	5,811,077	16	6	7,352,655	12	2	1,541,577	15	8
1714	5,929,227	0	8	8,361,638	3	3	2,432,411	2	6
1715	5,640,943	16	5	7,379,409	0	8	1,738,465	4	3
1716	5,800,258	7	8	7,614,085	6	11	1,813,826	19	3
1717	6,346,768	1	6	9,147,700	2	4	2,800,932	0	10
1718	6,669,390	1	1	8,255,302	14	5	1,585,912	13	4
1719	5,367,499	8	3	7,709,528	1	7	2,342,028	13	4
1720	6,090,083	15	1	7,936,728	16	6	1,846,645	1	5
1721	5,768,510	16	7	8,681,200	17	4	2,912,690	0	9
1722	6,378,098	19	1	9,650,789	17	10	3,272,690	18	9
1723	6,505,676	6	8	9,489,811	16	7	2,984,135	9	11
1724	7,394,405	2	5	9,143,356	12	7	1,748,951	10	2
1725	7,094,708	8	6	11,352,480	11	4	4,257,772	2	10
1726	6,677,865	13	4	9,406,731	10	10	2,728,865	17	6
1727	6,798,908	4	2	9,553,043	18	3	2,754,135	14	1
1728	7,569,299	1	9	11,631,383	1	11	4,062,084	0	2
1729	7,540,620	10	5	11,475,771	16	8	3,935,151	6	3
1730	7,780,019	9	2	11,974,135	14	11	4,194,116	5	9
1731	6,991,500	3	11	11,167,380	10	6	4,175,880	6	7
1732	7,087,914	5	0	11,786,658	13	0	4,698,744	8	0
1733	8,016,814	2	2	11,777,306	6	7	3,760,492	4	5
1734	7,095,861	8	4	11,000,645	2	2	3,904,783	13	10
1735	8,160,184	0	11	13,544,144	7	0	5,383,960	6	1
1736	7,307,966	12	10	11,616,356	10	2	4,308,389	17	4
1737	7,073,638	3	6	11,842,320	17	0	4,768,682	13	6
1738	7,438,960	4	7	12,289,495	7	1	4,850,535	2	6
1739	7,829,373	8	11	9,495,366	14	3	1,665,993	5	4
1740	6,703,778	10	6	8,869,939	15	5	2,166,161	4	11
1741	7,936,084	18	7	11,469,872	8	2	3,533,787	9	7
1742	6,866,864	13	0	11,584,427	2	4	4,717,562	9	4
1743	7,802,353	6	6	14,623,653	9	6	6,821,300	3	0
1744	6,362,971	6	6	11,429,628	10	3	5,066,657	3	9
1745	7,847,123	3	3	10,497,329	17	0	2,650,206	13	9
1746	6,205,687	15	8	11,360,792	16	2	5,155,105	0	6

A. D.
1788

Years.	Imports.			Exports.			Excess.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1747	7,116,757	5	6	11,442,049	1	6	4,325,291	16	0
1748	8,136,408	19	6	12,351,433	12	11	4,215,024	13	5
1749	7,917,804	10	4	14,099,366	11	0	6,181,562	0	8
1750	7,772,039	12	5	15,132,004	3	1	7,359,964	10	8
1751	7,943,436	4	5	13,967,811	8	7	6,024,375	4	2
1752	7,889,369	9	3	13,221,116	3	11	5,331,746	14	8
1753	8,625,029	4	3	14,264,614	3	11	5,639,584	19	8
1754	8,093,472	15	0	13,396,853	9	7	5,303,383	14	7
1755	8,772,865	2	10	12,182,255	17	6	3,409,390	14	8
1756	7,961,603	8	10	12,517,640	8	3	4,556,036	19	5
1757	9,253,317	14	9	13,438,285	1	0	4,184,967	6	3
1758	8,415,025	4	10	15,034,994	10	7	6,619,969	5	9
1759	8,922,976	1	4	14,696,892	7	1	5,773,916	5	9
1760	9,832,802	11	1	15,579,073	0	5	5,746,270	9	4
1761	9,543,901	14	4	16,365,953	0	7	6,822,051	6	3
1762	8,870,234	14	3	14,134,093	3	6	5,263,858	9	3
1763	11,665,036	0	9	16,160,181	16	3	4,495,145	15	6
1764	10,364,307	12	3	16,512,403	16	3	6,148,096	4	0
1765	10,889,742	13	10	14,550,507	1	8	3,660,764	7	10
1766	11,475,775	5	8	14,024,964	2	8	2,549,188	17	0
1767	12,073,956	0	11	13,844,511	1	8	1,770,555	0	9
1768	11,878,661	2	7	15,117,982	16	1	3,239,321	13	6
1769	11,908,560	16	5	13,438,236	6	11	1,529,675	10	6
1770	12,216,937	14	3	14,266,653	17	5	2,049,716	3	2
1771	12,821,995	16	9	17,161,146	14	2	4,339,150	17	5
1772	14,508,715	16	9	18,732,379	5	8	4,233,663	8	11
1773	12,522,643	7	0	16,654,052	5	8	4,131,408	18	8
1774	14,548,902	16	1	17,607,447	4	0	3,058,544	7	11
1775	14,816,955	17	2	16,946,523	18	4	2,129,568	1	2
1776	12,449,189	17	11	15,685,107	16	7	3,235,918	18	8
1777	12,643,834	7	8	14,152,243	6	1	1,508,408	18	5
1778	10,975,533	1	0	12,375,712	12	11	1,400,179	11	11
1779	11,435,263	13	5	13,597,771	4	2	2,162,507	10	9
1780	11,714,967	7	11	13,689,073	12	6	1,974,105	4	7
* 1781	12,723,613	16	1	11,470,388	14	8	1,253,235	1	5*
1782	10,341,628	15	6	13,224,637	10	11	2,883,008	15	5
1783	13,122,235	7	6	15,450,778	12	9	2,328,543	5	3
* 1784	15,272,802	0	3	14,961,074	11	9	* 311,727	8	6*
1785	16,279,490	1	6	16,770,239	7	9	490,749	6	3
1786	15,786,072	7	5	16,300,730	12	5	514,658	5	0
1787	17,804,024	16	1	18,296,166	12	11	492,141	16	10

N. B. In those years marked with asterisks, the excess is to be understood of the imports; in all others, of the exports.

We

A. D.

1788

We have already given a list of the number of the Dutch ships employed in the whale fishery, from the year 1770,—but, as the following Table, with which we are now furnished, gives the History of the Dutch Greenland Trade in a more particular manner, and during the course of upwards of a century, we shall insert it, without any just reason to fear the charge of repetition.

A LIST of GREENLAND and STRAIT DAVIS Ships, from HOLLAND, since the Year 1661, with the number of Fish caught each Year.

Years	Ships	Fish	Years	Ships	Fish	Years	Ships	Fish	Years	Ships	Fish
1661	133	452 $\frac{1}{2}$	1693	90	175	1725	226	530 $\frac{1}{2}$	1757	180	423 $\frac{1}{2}$
1662	149	862	1694	63	161 $\frac{5}{12}$	1726	218	244	1758	159	371 $\frac{1}{2}$
1663	202	932 $\frac{1}{2}$	1695	97	187 $\frac{5}{6}$	1727	202	402 $\frac{1}{2}$	1759	155	464
1664	193	782	1696	122	428	1728	182	363 $\frac{1}{2}$	1760	154	454
1665	} War with England, no Ships out.		1697	131	1279	1729	184	229 $\frac{1}{3}$	1761	161	357 $\frac{1}{2}$
1666			1698	139	1483 $\frac{1}{2}$	1730	168	248 $\frac{3}{4}$	1762	165	189 $\frac{3}{4}$
1667			1699	151	775 $\frac{1}{2}$	1731	164	298 $\frac{1}{4}$	1763		
1668	155	573	1700	173	913 $\frac{5}{6}$	1732	176	314 $\frac{1}{6}$	1764	161	224
1669	138	1013 $\frac{1}{2}$	1701	208	2071 $\frac{1}{2}$	1733	184	360 $\frac{1}{4}$	1765	165	477
1670	148	792	1702	224	687 $\frac{7}{12}$	1734	186	327	1766	167	189 $\frac{1}{3}$
1671	158	1088 $\frac{1}{2}$	1703	207	644	1735	185	496 $\frac{3}{4}$	1767	165	179 $\frac{1}{6}$
1672	} War with England, no Ships out.		1704	130	652 $\frac{1}{6}$	1736	191	857 $\frac{1}{2}$	1768	160	600 $\frac{1}{3}$
1673			1705	157	1678	1737	196	504 $\frac{1}{2}$	1769	152	1127
1674			1706	151	966 $\frac{1}{2}$	1738	195	472	1770	150	523
1675	147	900 $\frac{1}{2}$	1707	131	126	1739	192	728 $\frac{1}{4}$	1771	150	143 $\frac{1}{3}$
1676	145	812 $\frac{1}{6}$	1708	122	533 $\frac{1}{2}$	1740	187	665 $\frac{1}{2}$	1772	131	768 $\frac{1}{2}$
1677	145	785 $\frac{1}{3}$	1709	126	192 $\frac{3}{4}$	1741	178	312 $\frac{1}{4}$	1773	134	444 $\frac{1}{2}$
1678	120	1118 $\frac{1}{4}$	1710	137	62	1742	173	558 $\frac{1}{2}$	1774	130	450
1679	126	792	1711	117	631	1743	185	937	1775	129	105
1680	151	1373	1712	108	373 $\frac{3}{4}$	1744	187	1494	1776	123	509
1681	175	876	1713	93	237 $\frac{1}{2}$	1745	184	568 $\frac{3}{4}$	1777	116	427 $\frac{1}{4}$
1682	195	1444	1714	108	1291	1746	180	1036	1778	111	306 $\frac{1}{2}$
1683	242	1338 $\frac{1}{2}$	1715	134	698 $\frac{1}{2}$	1747	164	776 $\frac{1}{4}$	1779	105	168 $\frac{1}{4}$
1684	233	1153 $\frac{1}{2}$	1716	153	535	1748	94	278 $\frac{1}{6}$	1780	82	476
1685	209	1283 $\frac{7}{12}$	1717	179	392 $\frac{1}{2}$	1749	157	619 $\frac{1}{4}$	1781	} War with Eng- lan', no Ships out.	
1686	189	664 $\frac{1}{2}$	1718	139	280 $\frac{1}{4}$	1750	158	590 $\frac{1}{2}$	1782		
1687	194	621 $\frac{1}{2}$	1719	211	346	1751	162	330 $\frac{5}{12}$	1783	55	330
1688	214	340 $\frac{1}{2}$	1720	228	455 $\frac{1}{2}$	1752	159	546 $\frac{1}{4}$	1784	62	198
1689	160	241 $\frac{1}{8}$	1721	260	733 $\frac{2}{3}$	1753	166	639 $\frac{5}{8}$	1785	65	300
1690	117	785	1722	254	1101 $\frac{1}{2}$	1754	171	672 $\frac{1}{12}$	1786	67	476
1691	2	War with France.	1723	233	314	1755	181	720 $\frac{1}{2}$	1787	67	239 $\frac{1}{2}$
1692	32	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	1724	232	358	1756	186	568 $\frac{1}{2}$	1788	69	190

N.B. From the Year 1719 are included the STRAIT DAVIS Ships.

The

1788 The number of vessels which have been employed in the Whale Fishery to Davis's Streights and the Greenland Seas, in the present year, were 222, measuring altogether 65,267 tons; their cargoes consisted of 5,989 tons of clean oil; 7,654 tons, 1 cwt. 4 lbs. whale fins; and 13,386 seal skins.

An account of the quantity of British Corn exported, and of Foreign Corn imported and exported for the year 1781, as taken from the Custom-house books.

		British, exported.		Foreign, imported.		Foreign, exported.	
		Qrs.	Bush.	Qrs.	Bush.	Qrs.	Bush.
Barley,	—	62,187	4	10,685	2	171	3
Beans,	—	8,933	0	9,189	7	997	4
Oats,	—	11,442	7	331,053	3	907	1
Oatmeal,	—	619	3	2,086	3		
Peas,	—	4,520	1	1,091	7	63	0
Rye,	—	30,929	1				
Wheat,	—	49,769	1	116,936	4	8,241	4
				Cwt. qrs. lbs.		Cwt. qrs. lbs.	
Wheat Flour,	—	24,208	1	25,227	2 18	1,471	1 17
Malt,	—	146,280	0				

The following are the variations of the public funds during this year, with the highest and lowest prices arranged opposite to each month.

	Bank Stock.	3 per cent. reduc.	3 per cent. consol.	4 per cent. consol.	New Ann. 1777	Long Ann.	Short Ann. 1778	India Stock.	India Ann.	India Bonds.	South Sea Stock.	Old Ann.	3 per cent. 1751	New Navy Bills.	5 per cent. Navy.	Exchequer Bills.
January,	{ 160	76 $\frac{7}{8}$	77 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	175	—	89s.	—	75 $\frac{3}{8}$	—	2 $\frac{7}{8}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	28
	{ 158	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	22 $\frac{7}{16}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	170 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	81	—	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	27
February,	{ 161 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{3}{4}$	96 $\frac{7}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{10}$	—	172 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	85	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	113 $\frac{3}{4}$	30
	{ 160 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	96 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	171	75 $\frac{1}{8}$	84	—	74 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	112 $\frac{5}{8}$	28
March,	{ 158 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{7}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	96 $\frac{1}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	170 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{7}{8}$	91	—	76	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{7}{8}$	26
	{ 176 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{7}{8}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	170	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	84	—	75 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	2	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
April,	{ 176 $\frac{1}{4}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{5}{8}$	175	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	2 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
	{ 172	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	174	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	81	—	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	—
May,	{ 172 $\frac{3}{4}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{8}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	174	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	85	—	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	—
	{ 172 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	94 $\frac{3}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	—	173 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	82	—	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	113	—
June,	{ 172 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	173	—	68	—	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	114	20
	{ 171 $\frac{1}{2}$	74	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{5}{8}$	74	22	—	171	—	66	—	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2	113 $\frac{1}{4}$	—
July,	{ 171 $\frac{3}{4}$	75	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	22 $\frac{3}{8}$	13 $\frac{5}{8}$	168 $\frac{3}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	70p.	—	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	68	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	112 $\frac{3}{8}$	21 p.
	{ 173	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	94 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	70 $\frac{5}{8}$	39	—	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	61	2 dif.	111 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
August,	{ 176 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{1}{3}$	75 $\frac{5}{8}$	96 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	22 $\frac{5}{8}$	13	169 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	75	—	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	2	114 $\frac{1}{8}$	37
	{ 173 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	95 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	168 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	40	—	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	112 $\frac{3}{8}$	23
Septemb.	{ 176 $\frac{3}{4}$	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	75 $\frac{1}{4}$	96 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	170 $\frac{1}{4}$	70	73	83 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	2	114	38
	{ 172 $\frac{7}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{8}$	94 $\frac{3}{8}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	22	13	169	—	71	—	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{7}{8}$	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{3}{8}$	—
October,	{ 173 $\frac{3}{8}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{8}$	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{8}$	78	—	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	114 $\frac{1}{4}$	39
	{ 171 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	74 $\frac{2}{8}$	92 $\frac{3}{4}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	21	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	72	—	72 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	112 $\frac{3}{8}$	38
Novemb.	{ 173 $\frac{1}{4}$	74 $\frac{5}{8}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{5}{8}$	74 $\frac{1}{8}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	170 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{8}$	78	—	74 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	114 $\frac{3}{8}$	39
	{ 171 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	74 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{1}{8}$	73 $\frac{3}{8}$	21	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{8}$	72	—	72 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	112 $\frac{3}{8}$	38
Decemb.	{ 170 $\frac{1}{4}$	73 $\frac{1}{8}$	74	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	21 $\frac{5}{8}$	13 $\frac{1}{8}$	166	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	72	82 $\frac{1}{4}$	72 $\frac{1}{8}$	—	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	112 $\frac{5}{8}$	31
	{ 169 $\frac{1}{8}$	72 $\frac{5}{8}$	73 $\frac{5}{8}$	92 $\frac{5}{8}$	—	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{16}$	164 $\frac{3}{4}$	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	70	—	71 $\frac{7}{8}$	—	1 $\frac{7}{8}$	113 $\frac{1}{8}$	28

An account of the christenings and burials within the bills of mortality in London.

Christened, males	9,892	Buried, males	9,962
— females	9,667	— females	9,735
	<u>19,559</u>		<u>19,697</u>

A P P E N D I X.

Although the following Papers were communicated to us at too late a Period to be incorporated with the Work itself, we have, notwithstanding, thought them sufficiently interesting to be given in the Form of an Appendix.

C O P P E R - P L A T E E N G R A V I N G S.

A CONSIDERABLE article of commerce has arisen very lately in this country, in a manner so rapid, that it is somewhat curious to investigate the cause of it—we mean that of *engraved Prints*. Foreign prints, particularly the French, were so greatly superior to those executed in this country, that immense quantities of them were imported either for the port-folio, or for furniture. Mr. Alderman Boydell, the person principally concerned in this article of importation, with a public spirit and patriotism, of which his country has had many proofs, conceived an idea, that if the artists of this country were to receive suitable encouragement, and have the works of the great masters put before them, they might equal, if not excel, those of foreign countries. This idea was so well founded, that though it was only attempted to be put in execution by him about the year 1760, he was enabled to publish, in 1761, the *Niobe*, and some others engraved by Woollett, after pictures by Wilson and Smith. This proved such a specimen of the English school, as gained the admiration of all Europe, and insured a favourable reception to his future undertakings, which have indeed been as successful as they have been extensive; witness the numerous capital engravings from the great masters, in the Devonshire, Houghton, and other collections, lately executed. Such has been the very rapid progress of the art of engraving in this country, since the period above-mentioned, from the spirited conduct and liberal encouragement given to the artists by Mr. Boydell, that in the course of a few years he has lived to see his whole system crowned with success; insomuch, that instead of all the fine prints sold in this country being imported from abroad, the exports are now, to the imports, (by the most accurate calculation) as five hundred is to one; and these exports are not confined to any one country, for they extend from Madrid to Moscow. It is but justice, however, to say, that so great a change in this channel of commerce, has been greatly aided by the institution of the Royal Academy—An institution which will do lasting honour to his present Majesty—as the young artist there, from a contemplation of the elaborate works of genius, acquires a competent knowledge in drawing and design,—very essential requisites to attain any degree of excellence in this sister art.

It perhaps may not be thought improper here to mention an undertaking, that promises to carry painting, as well as engraving, to the summit of perfection in England, especially as it is conducted

by the same person who has already, as we have before stated, so essentially served his country in this line of commerce:—We allude to the magnificent design of illustrating the principal scenes of Shakespeare, by near a hundred capital pictures, from which engravings are to be made by the first artists in this country, for a superb edition of this author's works. Many of these pictures are collected together and offered to the public view in a gallery erected for that purpose. When we contemplate this design, we confess we are dazzled by its grandeur; we shall, therefore, content ourselves with using the words of an eminent author, Dr. Robertson, who speaking of the subject has said, "That it is an undertaking worthy the magnificence of a great nation, in honour of its favourite author." It is very certain, that no age, nor no country, has ever raised such a monument to any author.

But to what lengths the enterprize of men of talents, seconded by the confidential assistance of a liberal public, will go, cannot easily be determined. The fine arts in all other countries have been supported by devotion, in the execution of endless altar-pieces, &c. and by the patronage of great families: but, in this country, commerce seems to be doing that, which religion and personal patronage could alone effect in foreign nations; and as commerce is the subject of our labours, we are happy in giving this additional proof of its importance.

It may not be improper, in this place, to mention the polygraphic invention of Mr. Joseph Booth, portrait painter, by which paintings in oil colours are copied or multiplied. This art already begins to flourish, and promises no inconsiderable article to the commerce of this country.

P O T T E R I E S A N D E A R T H E N W A R E.

A manufactory of earthen ware has been carried on at Burslem in Staffordshire, and some of the neighbouring villages, from time immemorial. It can be traced with certainty for at least two centuries back; of its first introduction, no tradition remains: but it has not, till of late years, been of consequence enough to engage the attention of the public, or to merit the notice of writers upon commerce.

In 1686, as we learn from Dr. Plot's Natural History of Staffordshire, published in that year, only the coarse yellow, red, black, and mottled wares, were made in this country; and the only materials employed for them, appear to have been the different coloured clays which are found in the neighbourhood, and which form some of the measures, or strata of the coal mines. These coarse clays made the body of the ware, and the glaze was produced by powdered lead ore, sprinkled on the pieces before firing, with the addition of a little manganese for some particular colours. The quantity of goods manufactured, was at that time so inconsiderable, that the chief sale of them, the Doctor says, was "to poor crate-men, who carried them on their backs all over the country."

About the year 1690, two ingenious artisans from Germany, of the name of Eller, settled near Burslem, and carried on a small work for a little time. They brought into this country the method of glazing stone ware, by casting salt into the kiln while it is hot, and some other improvements of less importance; but finding they could not keep their secrets to themselves, they left the place rather in disgust.

From this time, various kinds of stone ware, glazed by the fumes of salt in the manner above-mentioned, were added to the wares before made. The white kind, which afterwards became, and for many succeeding years continued, the staple branch of pottery, is said to have owed its origin to the following accident. A potter, Mr. Astbury, travelling to London, perceived something amiss with one of his horse's eyes; an ostler at Dunstable said he could soon cure him, and for that purpose put a common black flint stone into the fire. The potter observing it, when taken out, to be of a fine white, immediately conceived the idea of improving his ware, by the addition of this material to
the

the whitest clay he could procure: accordingly he sent home a quantity of the flint stones of that country, where they are plentiful among the chalk, and by mixing them with tobacco-pipe clay, produced a white stone ware, much superiour to any that had been seen before.

Some of the other potters soon discovered the source of this superiority, and did not fail to follow his example. For a long time they pounded the flint stones in private rooms, by manual labour, in mortars; but many of the poor workmen suffered severely from the dust of the flint getting into their lungs, and producing dreadful coughs, consumptions, and other pulmonary disorders. These disasters, and the increased demand for the flint powder, induced them to try to grind it by mills of various constructions; and this method, being found both effectual and safe, has continued in practice ever since.

With these improvements, in the beginning of the present century, various articles were produced for tea and coffee equipages. Soon after, attempts were made to furnish the dinner table also; and before the middle of the century, utensils for the table were manufactured in quantity, as well for exportation as home consumption.

But the salt glaze, the only one then in use for this purpose, is, in its own nature, so imperfect; and the potters, from an injudicious competition among themselves for cheapness, rather than excellence, had been so inattentive to elegance of form, and neatness of workmanship, that this ware was rejected from the tables of persons of rank; and, about the year 1760, a white ware, much more beautiful, and better glazed than ours, began to be imported in considerable quantities from France.

This inundation of a foreign manufacture, so much superiour to any of our own, must have had very bad effects upon the potteries of this kingdom, if a new one, still more to the public taste, had not appeared soon after. In the year 1763, Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, who had already introduced several improvements into this art, invented a species of earthen ware, for the table, quite new in its appearance, covered with a rich and brilliant glaze, bearing sudden alternations of heat and cold, manufactured with ease and expedition, and consequently cheap; and having every requisite for the purpose intended. To this new manufacture the Queen was pleased to give her name and patronage, commanding it to be called *Queen's ware*, and honouring the inventor by appointing him her Majesty's potter.

To the same person we owe the invention of the following kinds of earthen ware and porcelain, viz.

I. A *Terra Cotta*, resembling porphyry, granite, Egyptian pebble, and other beautiful stones, of the Siliceous or Crystalline order.

II. *Basaltes*; a fine black porcelain bisqué, of nearly the same properties with the natural stone; it receives a high polish, serves as a touchstone for metals, strikes fire with steel, resists all the acids, and bears, without injury, a stronger fire than the basaltes itself.

III. *White Porcelain* bisqué, of a smooth wax-like surface, of the same properties with the preceding, except in what depends upon colour.

VI. *Jasper*; a white porcelain bisqué, of exquisite beauty and delicacy, possessing the general properties of the basaltes, together with that of receiving colours, through its whole substance, in a manner which no other *body*, ancient or modern, has been known to do: this renders it peculiarly fit for cameos, portraits, and all subjects in bas relief, as the ground may be coloured throughout, without paint or enamel, while the raised figures are of a pure white.

V. *Bamboo*, or cane-coloured bisqué porcelain, of the same nature as No. 3.

VI. A *porcelain bisqué*, remarkable for great *hardness*, little inferior to that of agate: this property, together with its resistance to the strongest acids and corrosives, and its impenetrability by every known liquid, adapts it for mortars, and many different kinds of chemical vessels.

These six distinct species, together with the Queen's ware already mentioned, expanded into a thousand different forms, for ornament as well as use, variously painted and embellished, constitute nearly the whole of the present fine English earthen wares and porcelains, which are now become the source of an immense trade; and which, considered as an object of national industry and commerce, make one of the most important manufactures of the kingdom.

The evidence given by Mr. Wedgwood, to the Committee of Privy Council, and at the Bars of the two Houses of Parliament, when a commercial arrangement with Ireland was in agitation, in 1785, will shew the extent of this manufacture, and its value to our maritime and landed, as well as commercial interests. Though the manufacturing part alone gives bread to fifteen or twenty thousand people, he looks upon this as a small object, when compared with the many others that are put in motion by it, *viz.* The immense quantity of *inland carriage* it creates throughout England, both in its raw materials, and finished goods—the great number of people employed in the extensive *collieries* for its use—the still greater numbers employed in *raising and preparing the raw materials*, in several distant parts of the kingdom, from near the Land's End, in Cornwall, one way, along different parts of the coast, Falmouth, Teignmouth, Exeter, Pool, Gravesend, and the Norfolk coast; the other way, to Biddeford, Wales, and the Irish coast—the *coasting vessels*, which being employed, at the proper seasons, in the Newfoundland fishery, carry these materials coastwise to Liverpool and Hull, to the amount of many thousand tons yearly, at times when they would otherwise be laid up idle in harbour—the further conveyance from those ports, by *river and canal navigation*, to one of the most inland situations in the kingdom—and the *reconveyance* of the finished goods to the different ports of this island, where they are shipped for every foreign market that is open to the earthen wares of England.

He observes further, that this manufacture, in a national view, is attended with some advantageous circumstances, almost peculiar to itself; such as, that the value of the manufactured goods consists almost wholly in labour—that one ton of raw materials produces several tons of finished goods for shipping, the freight being then charged, not by the weight, but by the bulk—that scarce a vessel leaves any of our ports, without more or less of this cheap, bulky, and therefore valuable article to this maritime country—and, above all, that not less than five-sixths of the whole produce of the potteries are exported to foreign markets.

Considerable as this object may now appear, Mr. Wedgwood, in his evidence to the House of Commons, declares himself impressed with the idea that the art is still but in its infancy, compared with what it may arrive at, if not interrupted in its growth.

By this last expression we suppose he alludes to the introduction of excise laws into the potteries, of which there was some talk at that time; but it would have been too impolitic a step to check so growing a manufacture by excise laws, especially when five-sixths of the duty collected, must have been paid back again upon exportation of the goods, and an opening thereby made for frauds, which (if we may judge from what has been practised in other articles) would have made the drawbacks amount even to more than the sums originally collected.

THE COAL TRADE.

The earliest account we have of the importation of sea coals into London, was about the year 1350; and, in the year 1400, the nobility and citizens petitioned the King, "to prohibit the further use of so noxious and unhealthy a kind of fuel," as they then imagined it to be; and from that period to the present, the importation has gradually increased.

As an article of commerce, a judgment may be formed of its importance, from the following statement:

Above 500 ships, from one to 500 tons, are employed in bringing coals to London, and coastways, navigated by many thousand seamen and stout boys. The import into London alone, in the course of the last year (1788) amounted to 766,795 chaldrons, from Newcastle, Sunderland, Blyth Nook, Scotland, Wales, and Liverpool.

The duty paid into the Exchequer, on this amazing import to the metropolis, is no less a sum than £306,718, and that without the expence of a single Custom-House Officer on board. The importation of this has exceeded any former year, by at least 5000 chaldrons; and it would have been twenty or 30,000 more, if contrary winds had not prevailed in November, and the frost set in so early in December.

A century ago, this trade was very inconsiderable to what it is at present, as the number of inhabitants in the different sea-port towns, and the metropolis, were fewer, and the various manufactures requiring constant supplies of this commodity, less extensive and numerous. At that period the masters of vessels, employed in the London trade, used to frequent a place in Lower Thames-street, called Room Land, adjoining to Billingsgate, where they met very early in the morning, and disposed of their coals. In process of time, this mode was found very inconvenient; and as several persons, who kept lighters and barges, had directions from their employers, the Captains rather chose to dispose of their cargoes entire, at once, to the lightermen, than retail them in small quantities, allowing them a small discount for prompt payment; by which means they were enabled to fix one certain price for the whole cargo, and get their ships unloaded in a shorter space of time. But, in order to produce this regulation, an intermediate person was appointed, who was formerly called a coal crimp, or more properly a broker, or factor, to whom the ship's loading was regularly consigned, who was to sell the cargo, give security, and pay the duties at the Custom-House, collect the amount of sales from the buyers, and settle with the owners. The same kind of method is observed in the North, by the owners of the collieries, who appoint a person, called a fitter, to vend their coals to the ship-owners, who take the risque of the voyage, both of ship and cargo, unless they are freighted on account of some other person, which is sometimes the case. This is now the invariable method pursued in the conduct of the Coal Trade. Early in the present century various complaints had been made to Parliament, of combinations, both in the North, and in London, from jealousies having arisen among the coal owners in the North, and competitors in mines; and at London among the smaller dealers, who wished, instead of buying them at second hand, to have them from the ships. These complaints arose, in the first instance, from persons, who were proprietors of collieries of an inferior repute, having prevailed upon the London principal dealers, by pecuniary inducements, to get their coals vended at the London market, in preference to others. This operated, for a time, to their interest; but others, who did not think fit to observe the same rule, applied to Parliament to put a stop to that undue preference; and an act was passed, by which the

donor or acceptor of any gratuity became liable to a penalty of 50*l*. This, however, had only a temporary effect, and occasioned a second complaint, and a further restriction of 500*l*. penalty on transgressing the act. But even this did not remedy the evil; which has, by degrees, induced the coal owners at large, with only one or two exceptions, to allow a premium to the principal buyers, at the London market, which has varied from 6*d*. to 1*s*. per chaldron, according to their respective opinions of the necessity of doing it. In that state the trade has continued till the last year. Several acts of Parliament have likewise passed to regulate the shipping, in the North, and their delivery at London. The irregularities complained of in the North arose from particular partialities being shewn in point of loading; for many of the fitters having become men of such opulence as to engage deeply in shipping, they were too apt to give such ships as they were concerned in an unfair preference. The general body of ship owners, therefore, got an act to regulate the turn of loading, by which means every ship was loaded as she applied in a fair turn. To prevent any combinations at the London market, an act was passed to prevent any number of ships laying above fourteen days, after their entry at the London port, whose cargoes were unfold; by which means no Captains have it in their power to refuse a fair market price. But these acts of Parliament, after the first impression of them had been somewhat obliterated, were frequently disregarded; and the coal dealers forgot, or at least grew careless of acts which were but seldom enforced with vigour. This occasioned, of late years, a want of that caution among the dealers, which had at first been observed, so that they received gratuities in too open a manner. As informers will always be on the watch, it happened that, in the year 1787, some needy people, who had failed in that trade, took advantage of the penal statute, and having obtained proofs of the actual receipts of premiums, by most of the principal dealers, instituted suits against them on the acts of Parliament; and one having been tried, which only failed from an error of its being wrong worded, the whole trade took the alarm, and applied to Parliament to pass an act of oblivion, stating its ancient usage, and the motives of the persons who had occasioned the application. The petition was referred to a Committee, who examined evidence on both sides, and an act of oblivion was passed, for all former causes of actions, on the trade satisfying the persons who had already brought those actions; which they did, at a considerable expence.

C O A L T A R.

The manufacture of Coal Tar, for which a prolonged patent has been granted, by act of Parliament, to the Earl of Dundonald, is already become a considerable commercial article. Its successful application, as a preservative to ship's bottoms, iron work, sheds, barns, and all kinds of fences, gives it the promise, not only of general consumption at home, but of great demand abroad.

C A S T P L A T E G L A S S.

An extensive manufactory of this elegant and valuable branch of commerce, was first established in Lancashire, about the year 1773, through the spirited exertions of a very respectable body of proprietors, who were incorporated by an act of Parliament. From those various difficulties constantly attendant upon new undertakings, when they have to contend with powerful foreign establishments, it was for some time considerably embarrassed; but Government, of late, having taken off some restrictions that bore hard upon it, and made some judicious regulations relative to the mode of levying the Excise duty, it now bids fair to rival, if not surpass, the most celebrated Continental manufactures, both with respect to the quality, brilliancy, and size of its productions.

PAISLEY

PAISLEY MANUFACTORY.

Paisley was erected into a burgh, or barony, by James the IVth. of Scotland, 1488, and enjoys all the powers necessary for government and police, without any of the burthens to which Royal burghs are subjected. The freedom of the place is conferred on very moderate terms; and, though the revenues of it are not great, they have been managed to the best advantage. As the extensive manufactures carried on at this town, and places adjacent, are valuable acquisitions to the country, they will naturally excite the attention of all who consider manufactures to be the chief pillars of our national prosperity.

The branches of manufactures carried on at Paisley, are the linen, the thread, the silk, and the cotton. The manufacture of linen, and linen mixed with cotton, was begun before the union of the two nations; but, at that time, was very inconsiderable. A few looms were employed in weaving muslins; but this trade was soon annihilated by the introduction of foreign muslins. It is a curious circumstance that, after they were obliged to abandon this fabric for eighty years, the progress of the manufacturing arts is so far advanced, that they have now, with great probability of success, commenced a rivalry with the weavers of Indostan, where that fabric has been manufactured for ages.

Their next attempt was weaving striped linens, which they named Bengals, and were an imitation of cotton, but made of linen and cotton yarn. At this time, a trade with England being opened, a considerable trade of check handkerchiefs was carried on, for several years, with advantage. To this succeeded plain, striped, spotted, and figured lawns, and bordered handkerchiefs. After this, plain and figured thread gauze was added to the other fabrics. These light fancy articles tended to excite the ingenuity and taste of the artists; so that goods, of various patterns, were now made, and their success in invention and workmanship was considerable. The Paisley manufactures were now in demand, both in the home and the foreign markets, and a foundation was laid for that extensive business, to which they have since attained. In order to ascertain the progress of this branch, we here subjoin an abstract account from the Stamp Master's books, who made a report yearly, upon oath, to the Honourable Board of Trustees for fisheries and manufactures, &c.

	Yards.		£.	s.	d.
1st Nov. 1743 to ditto 1744	353,407	Value	15,886	15	10
1747 — 1748	413,660	—	23,671	19	7
1757 — 1758	649,998	—	43,665	8	11
1767 — 1768	529,022	—	54,664	12	11½
1783 — 1784	1,922,020	—	164,385	16	6½

The manufacture of thread was first attempted, in this country, by Mrs. Millar, of Bargarran, in 1722, on having received some information and machinery from Holland. Her example was immediately followed by several families in Paisley. They imitated that species, called Nuns, or ounce thread, which is made up in hanks of forty threads, and reeled upon reels a yard in circumference. This manufacture succeeded equally well with the lawns and gauzes, and has arrived at an high degree of perfection. But after being once established, and the profits reduced to a moderate quantum, methods were adopted by some to encrease these profits, which were neither honourable, nor, in the result, advantageous, by putting thirty threads in the hank, instead of forty; but when the thirty threads became perfectly known in the market, twenty-eight were substituted by some, instead of thirty, and thirty-four or thirty-five inches in length, instead of thirty-six. Frauds were

arrived.

arrived to such an height, that it became highly necessary to make application to Parliament, to remedy this growing evil, and prevent the ruin of this valuable manufactory.

The different species of threads made at Paisley, and in its neighbourhood, were nuns or ounce thread, Lisle or dozen thread, flourishing cotton for embroidering, India cotton for flowering, and Ware thread.

The number of machines employed in twining thread, at Paisley, in 1784, was not under 120.—Each machine, upon an average, will twine, of yarn, 2400 spindles; the whole of which makes 288,000.—These spindles of thread, valued at 4s. 6d. when manufactured, amount to 64,000l.

Now that we are upon the subject, it may not be amiss to observe, that from a general statement of the thread, manufactured in Scotland, in 1784, to which year this branch had gradually encreased, it appears, that the number of machines employed were at least five hundred, two hundred of which were employed in twining ounce threads, of every different species included under this denomination; and consume, upon an average, 2400 spindles of yarn each, which amount to 480,000.—These spindles, at 4s. 6d. when manufactured into thread, amount to 108,000l.

Three hundred machines, employed in twining, stitching, or pound threads, white, coloured, and Osnaburgh, will consume 2000 spindles each, which make 600,000.—These spindles, at 3s. 9d. when manufactured, amount to 112,000l.

Total value, 220,000l.—Total spindles, 1,080,000.

This manufacture, in performing all the various operations, from the spinning of the flax to the finishing of the thread, employs upwards of 20,000 women, besides 4000 or 5000 men.

The silk gauze manufacture was begun at Paisley, in 1759. The similarity betwixt thread gauze and silk gauze accelerated the progress of this branch. The weavers found no great difficulty in imitating the Spital-fields fabrics; and the manufacturer found it his interest to push a business so favourably situated for cheapness of labour, compared with the metropolis of Great-Britain. A company, from London, established a warehouse for that branch, in 1761; and several others soon after, composed of partners; some at Paisley, and others in London. This new manufacture gave sufficient room for the display of taste and genius in contriving new patterns. In this they succeeded beyond all expectation. Paisley silk gauzes became the fashionable wear through all the polite circles in Europe. The Spital-fields manufacturers were excelled, and the British gauzes were preferred at Paris, in opposition to all the exertions of the French manufacturers, by whom these fabrics were originally invented. At length, his Most Christian Majesty published an arret, prohibiting the importation of them, under the severest penalties. The immediate effect of which, however, has been done away, by the Treaty of Commerce between Great-Britain and France, as gauzes, of all kinds, are admitted into that country, on a duty of ten per cent. ad valorem.

The number of weavers employed, in the silk gauze fabrication, are		
not under	— — — — —	5,000

And the winders, warpers, clippers, draw-boys, and others, necessary		
in the various parts of the silk manufactory,	— — — — —	5,000

10,000

Suppose these ten thousand workmen, at an average, to earn 5s. per	£
week, the sum paid for wages will be, per ann.	130,000

Every silk loom produces an annual average value of 70l. the	
amount of which is	350,000

The Value of Paisley Manufactures, for 1784.

	£.	s.	d.
Silk gauzes, — — — —	350,000	0	0
Lawns and thread gauze, — — — —	164,385	16	6½
Thread, — — — —	64,800	0	0
Total	575,185	16	6½

The Number of People employed.

Lawn branch.—Weavers, — — — —	2,400
Spinners, — — — —	7,384
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c. — — — —	1,000
Overseers, — — — —	100
Makers of machinery and implements, — — — —	800
Total	11,684
Thread.—Spinners, winders, bleachers, twiners, &c. — — — —	4,800
Silk-weavers, — — — —	5,000
Winders, warpers, clippers, &c. — — — —	5,000
Total	26,484

That we may discover of what importance these manufactures are to this country, it is proper to point out what part of the value is the produce of labour, and what part is imported from foreign countries.

	£.	s.	d.
The lawns,—Gross value, — — — —	164,385	16	6½
Deduct for foreign yarn, Irish included, — — — —	21,600	0	0
Ditto for linseed and foreign ashes, — — — —	1,785	16	6½
	23,385	16	6½

	£.	s.	d.
The thread,—Gross value, — — — —	64,800	0	0
Deduct for yarn, foreign and Irish, — — — —	600	0	0
Ditto for foreign linseed and ashes, — — — —	580	0	0
	1,180	0	0

	Remains	£.	s.	d.
Silk gauze,—Wages paid, — — — —	141,000	0	0	
Profits, at 10l. per cent. including charges of merchandize, — — — —	63,620	0	0	
	130,000	0	0	
	35,000	0	0	
Total	369,620	0	0	

Some years previous to this period, an event happened which portended a considerable revolution in the manufactures of Great-Britain. This was the invention of Mr. Arkwright's celebrated machine, which is so aptly constructed, and so judiciously planned, that with one great water wheel,

wheel, above 4000 threads of cotton yarn are spun at once, of which the finest muslins are manufactured. This, with the invention of jennies for spinning woofs, encouraged the manufacturers, both of South and North Britain, to attempt the various fabrics of cotton goods, with great probability of success. Such powerful means of accelerating labour, and, at the same time, producing yarn more perfect in quality, had the effect of reducing the prices of manufactured cottons. This great acquisition operated likewise upon the fashions. Cottons were substituted in part for linens, woollens, and even silks. Thence it became necessary for the manufacturers at Paisley, again to attempt the fabric of muslins.

In 1785, they engaged in this branch, and are now carrying it on to a considerable extent. The difficulties attending every new fabric are many; the minutiae in the progress of various operations are at first but imperfectly understood. There is one encouraging circumstance, however, that they have not only great advantages from the machinery invented, which is superior to every other country, but also the weavers perform their operations better than the Asiatics. Yet, after all the exertions made, and the vast sums expended upon machinery, buildings, materials, &c. the East-India Company have it in their power, by a great importation of muslins, to involve thousands of industrious British subjects in distress and ruin. This appears evident from what happened in 1787, the consequence of which we have already noticed under that year. This circumstance attracted the attention of the Legislature, as some limitation appeared absolutely necessary, with respect to the importation of foreign muslins. Were the East India Company to import the raw material, which is of a finer quality than what is produced on the British West India Islands, such a step would be productive of the most salutary consequences to the home manufactures of this country. But, if cotton wool will not pay the expence of such a long navigation, with a profit to the importers, then, in that case, if no foreign muslins were permitted to be imported, under 5s. the yard, 36 inches broad, and 7s. 6d. six-quarters broad, this would give stability to the coarser fabrics, and security to the manufacturers in employing the capitals upon this extensive field.

The Parliament, in 1743, enacted, that a bounty of one penny should be given for every yard of British and Irish linens, made of hemp or flax, of the value of 6d. per yard, and not exceeding 1s. per yard, and of one halfpenny for every yard under the value of 6d. per yard, which shall be exported out of Great-Britain to Africa, America, Portugal, and Spain; and was afterwards extended to all linens of the value of 1s. 6d. per yard. Those bounties were, no doubt, very favourable to the linen trade of Scotland and Ireland; and a continuation of that national encouragement to British-made linens may be highly proper: but for what cause Great-Britain will continue to give to Ireland from 50 to 70,000l. a year of bounties upon their linens, is difficult to perceive. It is necessary here to state a few facts, from which it may be determined, whether it be not the interest of Great-Britain to exclude the Irish from that bounty, until a more liberal interchange of manufactures is established.

Previous to the year 1759, all goods, made chiefly of linen-yarn, with a small mixture of cotton, were admitted into Ireland, duty free; but, after that period, such goods were considered as unrated merchandize, and charged with a duty of 10l. per cent.

In the year 1779, the Irish acts of Parliament of the 14th and 15th of Charles II. laying a duty of 5s. per dozen, on fine needle-wrought handkerchiefs of Holland, were construed to extend to a coarse article, called Kenting handkerchiefs, sent at that time in considerable quantities from Paisley, and its neighbourhood, to Ireland, at the low average price of 12s. per dozen. Consequently, from paying nothing previous to 1759, and 10l. per cent. after that period, the duty was advanced to about 40l. per cent. *ad valorem*.

Threads

Threads which are wholly made of linen yarn, by a singular mode of management, are rated at 5s. per lb. from No. 4 to 20, when the medium value is not above 3s. and pay 10l. per cent. upon that rate; from No. 20 to 40 they are rated at 15s. per lb. notwithstanding the medium value is not above 8s. thus, instead of a 10l. per cent. duty, they are charged about $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. *ad valorem*. But, what is more singular, the importer is obliged to make oath, that his threads are of that value at which they are rated, before he can obtain a clearance from the Custom-house.

In the year 1781, the same construction of the acts of the 14th and 15th of Charles II. was extended to silk gauze handkerchiefs, upon which the duty was advanced from about 1s. 10d. to 5s. per dozen, making nearly 50l. per cent. on the average value of that species of goods consumed in the Irish market.

In like manner, printed handkerchiefs pay 5s. per dozen, equal to about 30l. per cent. on the medium qualities usually consumed in Ireland; and, in addition to this duty, 6d. per yard is charged upon all muslins, or cotton handkerchiefs, or neck-kerchiefs, extending to a duty of 40l. per cent. *ad valorem*.

After all these prohibitory duties, Great Britain, by an act of liberal conduct, admitted the Irish manufacturers to a participation of all her markets in the colonies. But will it now be deemed sound policy to continue this high bounty upon Irish-made linens, unless the sister-kingdom consent to a more equitable arrangement in the interchange of manufactures? Was this bounty given exclusively to British-made linens, in preference to Irish, this circumstance would call forth the activity of thousands in the north of Scotland, who are far from being fully employed.

Besides the general manufactures already stated, there are several other works established here, for making hard and soft soap, and candles, to the extent of about 30,000l. per ann. This, added to the former amount of value, makes in the whole 609,185l. 16s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. There is a considerable quantity of these articles exported, besides what is necessary for home consumption; and it is supposed they are excelled by none in Great-Britain, in point of quality. In 1781, the number of families, in the town and parish, was exactly taken; they amounted to 4170; to that allowing five to each family, the inhabitants amounted to 20,850. A considerable addition, since that time, has been made to the town.

The river Cart, which divides the old from the new town, mixes with the Clyde, three miles from the landing-place, and is capable of being greatly improved. Vessels of thirty tons, and upwards, navigate this river, at this time; but, were the obstructions removed, vessels, from 50 to 70 tons burden, might sail with the tide in safety. What renders this navigation of great importance is, that, as the great canal is now completed to the Clyde, a communication by water is opened to the Eastern coasts of Britain, to Holland, France, Germany, &c.

MECHANICAL INVENTIONS.

A very dextrous mechanic, Mr. Richard March, of London, has invented a variety of machines, chiefly for facilitating and improving the cloth and stocking manufactures: most of them are said to be useful; they have all, at least, ingenuity to recommend them to attention.

The first is a Machine, to be applied to a stocking frame, for knotting the common stocking works, which is done by means of knotting hooks, one to each needle, on which hooks the loops are brought; and, without taking the loops off the needles, the hooks, by moving one side of each loop round the heads of the needles, and by forcing it on the next needle to that on which it is

formed, knots the work; and, by this simple method being repeated, complete work is formed, in a variety almost unlimited. The superiority acquired by this mode of operation, over the common frame-work, lies chiefly in its not being liable to run, when cut or torn, having a beautiful fatten appearance, and being very elastic. It is now become a staple article, and gives employ to several hundreds of men, women, and children.

The second invention is a Machine, to be added to a stocking frame, to work a warp, commonly made use of in the loom for weaving, or a thread to every needle, by which means a very great variety of fancy-work, in silk, worsted, cotton, and thread, is made, in smooth work and in velvet, part cut, or cut all over.

The third is a Machine, to spin wool, &c. This machine, though not more than fifteen inches diameter, and five wide, spins wool to any degree of fineness, and may be regulated for that purpose, as well as to give any certain number of twists in an inch of yarn spun. The bobbin that receives the yarn as it is spun, has an horizontal and perpendicular motion; and the thread is placed on it compleatly even, by means of a guide, that is moved by a retrograde motion. Some hundreds of these machines were set at work, near Barnstaple, in Devonshire, where some extensive buildings were erected for that purpose: but these works having been of late shut up, and become a matter of litigation, we are necessitated to leave our readers unsatisfied respecting the decisive merits of an invention, which points to an improvement of the first magnitude.

A Machine to wind cross-reeled, or Portee East-India cotton yarn, a skein of which measures from ten to twenty yards, and is crossed from sixteen to twenty times. By this invention, yarn that cost from 2s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per pound winding, is now said to be wound for less than one-fourth of the expence.

A Machine, to double and twist any number of threads together, and give any number of twists in each inch.

The following inventions, by the same person, are very ingenious:—A Machine, to write on two sheets of paper the same words on each sheet, without copying, so as to produce two originals in the same time that one is executed.

A Machine, to be applied to a boat, or vessel, at sea, by means of which it will sail in a calm.

An horizontal Windmill. The simplicity of this invention is now pretty well known to the mechanical world. It consists of an upright shaft, on the top of which is a cap, similar to an umbrella, in the sides of which are fixed five cocks, at equal distances; in each is placed an oar; the axis, at the end of the oar, turns in the upright shaft; the cap supports the oars, by means of the cocks; on that part of the oar under the cap, is fixed two cross pieces, called striking pins; on the ridge of any building is fixed, horizontally, a round traversing board, with a hole in the center, to contain the upright shaft; in the hole of this board is fixed a tube, or socket, round which the vane and vane-board move, as the wind directs; under the vane-board are three rollers, at equal distances, which run on the traversing board, at the pleasure of the wind; on the upper side of the vane-board is fixed two half-hoops, or circles, against the ends of which the pins of the oars strike, to turn them to take the wind.

A Candlestick and Snuffers. The property of the candlestick is this; it will burn out the wick and tallow entire, without waste of either. The snuffers are so contrived, that they do not snuff the candle too low, or snuff it out, unless so designed; nor drop the snuff on the candle.

A cheap and simple application to all wheel carriages, to prevent them from being overturned.

Some years since, a Mr. John Kendrew, of Darlington, in the county of Durham, invented a machine, to go by water, which can, at the same time, grind and polish any number of optical glasses, and of any size. The above machine is now at work at Darlington.

The said J. Kendrew, with Thomas Porthouse, of the same place, a watchmaker, hath also invented a machine, or water-mill, for spinning of yarn from hemp, flax, tow, and wool.

There are two other spinning-mills now employed within five miles of Darlington, besides several in other parts, under licences from the patentees.

A Mill, for the purpose of spinning worsted, invented and established by Mr. William Toplis, of Cuckney, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, is now employed, with the greatest success, in that useful branch of manufacture.

R E F O R M A N D I M P R O V E M E N T

O F T H E

G E N E R A L P O S T - O F F I C E .

Among the many aids which have been given to commerce and public convenience, during the present century, there is not one which deserves better of the nation, and has a more just title to a place in this work, than the reformation which has been made in the administration of the Post-Office, by John Palmer, Esquire, the Comptroller General of it. Some general ideas of the reform which has since taken place, were first suggested to Mr. Pitt, in the Autumn of 1782; and, in the beginning of the following year, a plan was given in to him. After having maturely considered it, the minister determined that it should undergo a trial. This original plan, which, though it has since been greatly improved, contains all the principles of the undertaking, and in its present state of perfection, is a curious and interesting memoir. In order to give our readers a general outline of this extensive undertaking, we have made such selections from the plan presented by Mr. Palmer to Mr. Pitt, in 1783, as will be sufficient for that purpose.

“The post, at present,” says Mr. Palmer, “instead of being the swiftest, is almost the slowest conveyance in this country; and though, from the great improvement in our roads, other carriers have proportionably mended their speed, the post is as slow as ever. It is likewise very unsafe, as the frequent robberies of it testify; and, to avoid a loss of this nature, people generally cut bank bills, or bills at sight, in two, and send the parts by different posts.

“The Postmasters General lately advertised directions to the public, how to divide a bill, in such a manner as to prevent its being of any use to the robber. Rewards have also been frequently offered by him for the best constructed mail cart, on some plan, to prevent the frequent robbery of the mail, but without effect. Indeed, it is at present generally entrusted to some idle boy, without character, mounted on a worn-out hack; and who, so far from being able to defend himself, or escape from a robber, is much more likely to be in league with him.

“The post should certainly be as safe and expeditious as any other regular stage in the kingdom; for, till it is so, whatever penalties are held out to coachmen, carrying parcels, the public, as their convenience

convenience directs, will send by the safest and most expeditious conveyance, to the very great loss of the revenue of the Post-Office.

“ The comparison betwixt the post and the diligences, from Bath to London, will pretty nearly serve for the whole kingdom. The diligence that sets out from Bath, at four or five on Monday afternoon, will deliver a letter about ten on Tuesday morning, while the post that leaves the same place at ten or eleven on Monday night, does not deliver a letter till two or three on Wednesday afternoon, and frequently much later. Nothing, therefore, prevents the post from losing the conveyance of many more letters than it does at present, but the cheapness of the carriage, when compared with that of the diligence. By the post a letter costs only four-pence; and by the diligence, booking, carriage and portage, will make the charge amount to about two shillings; nevertheless, many persons, both at Bath and Bristol, send by the latter; and indeed, throughout the kingdom, every letter, to which expedition is necessary, is now sent by diligences, where they are established. It is, therefore, advised to contract with the masters of these diligences, to carry the mail, and a guard to protect it; and this, it is presumed, may be done by them not only better, but as cheap as the present method, which in general is three-pence per mile for the boy and horse. The diligences should go at the rate of eight or nine miles an hour; so that, allowing a quarter of an hour to change the horses, and for each Postmaster to change the bags, the mail will be conveyed from Bath to London in sixteen hours. Besides, these machines would have a recommendation above all others, both for passengers and parcels, as they would be punctual to time, and be protected by a guard, which must prove an additional motive for the masters to contract the cheaper with Government.

“ Diligences are now established from almost every town in the kingdom to London, and in many cities and capital towns where the cross-post communicates, as from Bath and Bristol to Birmingham, Liverpool, Chester, Oxford, Exeter, Plymouth, Portsmouth, &c. which would be a great benefit to the cross posts; and in many places, where they are not yet established, a contract for the mail might induce people to do it.

“ If the diligence was free of turnpikes, it would be a great saving to Government, and a very trifling tax on tolls, which, for a carriage and pair, from Bath to London, is about nine shillings, and a carriage and four, eighteen, it would be so much towards payment of the carriage of the mail; and, taken all through the kingdom, must amount to a very large sum annually.

“ It is certainly a very great hardship on individuals, that they are liable to an heavy penalty on sending letters by diligences, &c. as they may go out at an hour when the post does not, and at a time when a letter requires dispatch; yet several pounds must be paid for an express, or a servant sent post to do what may be done much better, for half a crown, by the coach. All that Government wants is to secure the postage of any letter, not sent with parcels of goods, or by private hands. The great object, therefore, must be to carry cheaper, safer and swifter, than any other carrier, and that will secure the business to the Post-Office better than any penalties whatever.

“ The Postmaster of every town must know the exact time the mail should arrive, and either himself, or servant, be ready at the inn, where the horses change, with his packet of letters, to put in the general bag, and to take out those brought for him. He must be very inexpert indeed, if he cannot change his packets, as soon as the ostler does his horses. If he is not ready, the diligence by no means to wait. If, on enquiry, the salaries of officers are not proportioned to the trust and duty, Government will undoubtedly advance them, but no more keep a negligent servant, in a department of the Post-Office, than in the Excise,

“ As the hours of sending off the mails, from every office in the kingdom, are settled to accommodate the General Post-Office, by the proposed alterations they may, perhaps, be changed in most places: to some the alteration may prove convenient, to others inconvenient; yet, at the very worst, the consideration, that the letter, which may be sent on the morrow, will arrive at the place to which it is directed, as soon as one now sent to day, will far overbalance it.

“ A Committee of Gentlemen, Merchants, &c. in each town, might, perhaps, suggest a better method of regulating the post, for their own district, than persons always employed in the office, in London. Some intelligent out-riders, who travel for orders to the different parts of the kingdom, and have experienced inconvenience in their correspondence, would be likely to furnish very useful information, which the office should not fail to encourage from every quarter. Where new roads are continually forming, and manufacturing villages growing into large towns, the post of such a country must be liable to continual variation, and open to great improvement.

“ It may be adviseable to consult with the Merchants, &c. in London, how far it may be proper for the General Office to shut at seven or eight in the evening. The Change being shut up at three, and the Banker's shops at six, the business would be much better done than at twelve at night, or one or two in the morning, and cheaper to Government. On examination, perhaps, it may be so regulated, that the letters may be delivered so much earlier than they are at present; as to leave full as much time, after the receipt of the letter, to answer it, as there is now, though the post would go out earlier. The increased expedition of the post would also allow for the missing a day. Indeed, an early hour, at the office, would occasion earlier hours for the dispatch of business that is to be communicated by it.

“ It is presumed that, by these, and other improvements which may be made, letters might be delivered in nearly half the time they now are, from many parts of the kingdom; and, as the public pay an additional tax with less reluctance, when it is grounded on great improvement and convenience, the postage might be advanced in the proportion of six-pence for four-pence, but double and treble letters in a smaller degree; for, as the diligence can carry any weight of letters, every encouragement should be given to send small packets by the post; and, as Government would pay about three-halfpence a pound, for one hundred miles, the public should not be made to pay one shilling and four-pence by the ounce.

“ By the act of 1765, the postage of a single letter, which used to be three-pence for any distance under eighty miles, was altered to one penny for one stage, and two-pence for two stages, under the idea that, by doing it so cheap, Government would have the great number of letters, sent by carriers, &c. in preference to them, not considering that they were sent for expedition, not for cheapness. By the present regulation of the prices of postage, from the General Post-Office, a single letter is a penny for one stage, two-pence for two stages; any distance beyond that, and not exceeding eighty miles, three-pence. From eighty miles to any part of England, be the distance what it may, even Berwick-upon-Tweed, which is three hundred miles, only four-pence; so that, beyond eighty miles, there is no sort of proportion kept between the distance and the charge, though to Edinburgh the charge is six-pence. Letters, which pass through London, are charged the postage to London, and from thence to the place of its destination.

“ The American charge seems to be on a better plan than that in England, viz. For a single letter, above sixty miles, four-pence; above one hundred, six-pence; above two hundred, eight-pence; not above three hundred, ten-pence, &c. Suppose the charges, in future, were at the following rates, throughout Great-Britain, viz. A single letter, not exceeding twenty miles, two-pence; forty,

forty, three-pence; sixty, four-pence; eighty, five-pence; one hundred, six-pence; and after that an additional halfpenny, on every twenty miles, to and from any part, whether the letter passes through London, or not.

“ The gross receipt of the Post Office annually, from the time it was first established in the reign of Charles II. to the act passed by Queen Anne for its improvement, gradually increased to 111,461*l.* and is now supposed to be about 500,000*l.*

“ From the proposed and other improvements, the revenue would not only be increased to a very considerable amount, but the public be better accommodated. Some regulation might also be adopted with respect to the privilege of franking. Perhaps, the best check on abuses in this particular, would be to oblige the members of Parliament to write the day of the month and year on the frank, and to charge the letter if not sent to the office the day it is so dated.

“ Postage is really no tax, but a fair and reasonable price for so much labour, which Government, by its monopoly, is enabled to do cheaper than any individuals, and should do with greater expedition and safety, or submit to the loss of the public's employing other carriers in preference to theirs.”

This plan, which has since been adopted, in its material points, with so much success, was necessarily delayed by the changes which took place in the administration of the country. Though it should be mentioned, to the honour of Mr. Palmer, that his scheme of reformation was approved by all parties, and that the several Ministers, as they succeeded each other, gave every proper encouragement to him. The difficulty he found in executing his plan did not proceed from Government, but from the Post Office; from whence, indeed, he experienced a degree of opposition which it is not our business to mention in the detail, and on which we shall only observe, that it does not appear, upon the most favourable examination, to be reconcileable to any principle of common sense, policy, or integrity. At length, however, the ability, ingenuity, and indefatigable spirit of the present Comptroller General, under the protecting wisdom of the present Minister, has brought this undertaking to a very high degree of perfection, and has given an example of public œconomics which never before existed in this or any other country.

Of the present state of this most useful undertaking we may observe from the best information, that Mr. Palmer has more than fulfilled every engagement he made with government. The contracts for the conveyance of the mails are made at 20,000*l.* per annum less than was originally agreed for;—the acceleration and extension of the posts are far greater than were at first promised, the mails being now conveyed, not only in half the time they used to be, to most parts of the kingdom, but in one-third, and even one-fourth of the time in many of the cross posts;—these posts are all likewise made daily instead of three days per week to 320 towns, and likewise the same additional convenience given to 201 towns on the general posts, &c.

The public are also equally indebted to Mr. Palmer for his new arrangement of the interior duties of the General Post Office; and the extent of that obligation may be easily discerned by attending to the following comparative view of the old with the new duties of this important department of public business.

O L D.

The people employed in the inland office, were detained there from seven or eight o'clock in the evening, till one, two, three, and sometimes four and five in the morning, to prepare the mails for going out; their constitutions suffering all that time by the pernicious effects of the smoke from 70 to 100 half-pound tallow candles; * and from six or seven in the morning till noon, afternoon and night, preparing the letters inwards for delivery, which sometimes in winter have not been sent out by the letter carriers till eight o'clock at night.

The letter carriers walks were, many of them, so extensive, as to take up from three, to five and six hours in serving, after being dispatched from the office.

It sometimes happened in winter, that mails, after having been detained upon the road a day, and sometimes two days beyond their time, arrived so late in the evening, as not to be opened till the day following; and that the letter carriers not having been sent out till six, seven or eight o'clock at night, they could not, on account of the extent of their walks, deliver all the letters till the day after; such additional delays and irregularities increasing the general inconveniencies from the tardiness of the Post Office.

The duty in the inland office was extremely neglected, and great contempt and indifference prevailed to proper subordination and controul. The mode likewise of performing the duties, was very ill calculated either for dispatch, responsibility, or for the benefit of the revenue.

N E W.

The hours of morning attendance are from six till from nine to eleven, during the very worst part of the winter, and the rest of the year from six till eight, half past eight or nine. In the evening from half past four or five till eight.

Two hours in serving, is the time to which they are generally reduced, two hours and an half at the utmost, including the walk from the General Post Office to the commencement of the delivery.

If a mail does not arrive in time for the general delivery, notice is given to the letter carriers to wait in certain quarters of the town, after they have done their first duty, till the twelve letter carriers who sort in the inland office, are dispatched to them with the contents of the late mail, for a second delivery.

An entire new constitution is introduced; the officers are classed according to their seniority; the most experienced are entrusted with a limited controul over the junior members, and rules laid down for effecting a proper subordination in the juniors. Punctuality of attendance is excited by rewards, which are furnished by fines exacted from those who violate necessary rules, and unworthy and incapable persons are to be precluded from promotion. Checks are likewise established for the greater regularity and safety of correspondence, as well as to guard the revenue.

* It was ascertained in the year 1784, that out of 100 people who had been appointed to situations in the inland office, there was not, at any one period, six that had survived it twenty years.

O L D.

The letters inward were sorted by the junior clerks of the inland office, who, being ignorant of the town delivery, and indifferent how they did it, they were taken into the letter carrier's office in a state that rendered it necessary to sort one-third of them over again; which, with other obstructions to the progress of the business, have made it as much as six hours from the arrival of the last mail to the going out of the letter carriers.

If any one mail belonging to a division consisting of three, or four, or five mails, did not arrive for several hours after the rest, the contents of those which arrived early, were detained in the inland office till the latest was brought in and sorted, and then all the parts were sent into the letter carrier's office together, which, by throwing so great a quantity of letters upon the carrier's office at a late stage of the business, could not fail to protract the finishing it very considerably.

The experienced class of officers sacrificed the most important part of their time, in an evening, to sorting and preparing newspapers for conveyance; and, thereby, were utterly disabled from superintending, as they ought, the subordinate people of their several divisions, who were employed in taxing and examining letters.

Deputy Postmasters, if fraudulently inclined, had only to return their letter-bills,

N E W.

A selection of the most intelligent letter-carriers, appointed to sort them, in the first instance, in the inland office, saves all the time that used to be lost by the re-sorting them in the letter-carrier's office; besides the advantage gained by the former sorters being employed in opening and examining the contents of the bags, as the mails arrive: and with so much correctness is this part of the duty performed at present, in consequence of the regulations and discipline lately introduced, that when the weather, and the state of the roads, allow the several mails to arrive at their appointed hours, the letter-carriers are very seldom kept in the office more than an hour, and generally not more than three-quarters of an hour, after the arrival of the last mail; and even when, from the badness of the roads and the weather, the earlier mails do not arrive so soon as usual, and all the mails crowd upon the office together, as must sometimes be the case, an hour and an half is the utmost time they are kept, instead of six hours, as above described.

The business goes on progressively, through all its stages, without interruption; and, if any one of the mails does not arrive by the time the rest are ready for delivery, the letter-carriers are sent out, and provision made for sorting and delivering the contents of the late mail, as soon as it does arrive.

A separate apartment is now prepared for sorting and making-up newspapers; and the senior officers left entirely to assist and superintend the more important object of taxing and examining letters.

The nightly charges to such Postmasters as return their bills, are doubly told; and an
inattention

O L D.

with a memorandum that they were over-charged, and the deduction required was subscribed to, without a possibility of detection, on account of the irregularity with which the charges were entered; and, for want of a proper check, near 400 Postmasters bills have been returned, in one week, for correction, the charges not agreeing, or said not to agree, with the actual amount of the letters sent.—Innumerable instances have occurred of their being under-charged to the amount of 10l. in a bill of 20l. and claims for overcharges allowed to nearly the same amount.

The entry of the amount of postage, chargeable upon the country Postmasters, and which, in the first instance, is done by the assistant clerk of each division, was neglected to a degree scarcely credible. Sometimes the amount of many of the post towns was not entered at all for days together. Sometimes the amount of certain nights postage charged to other nights, which varied considerably in the amount. Sometimes the account, for several days together, of one month, not entered at all under that month, but under another. Oftentimes more separate charges entered in a month than there were post days, and the postage of one ninth part of the letters sent away, not entered at all. The day of the month frequently not set down against the columns which contained the charges; even the name of the month did not appear; and many of the columns incapable of being any way applied or understood. From books so kept, the Accomptant-General had to make out the charges on the Postmasters.

The very great number of letters mis-sent, as well as of mistakes in Postmasters' bills, was chiefly owing to the clerks having, every bye night, between 4 and 5000, and every grand night, between 10 and 11,000 newspapers to sort and prepare for conveyance; and there being no means of ascertaining to what particular officers such blunders were to be charged; for the senior officers were so

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inattention to the article of charging, or making out the letter bills, detected, by an examination into the Postmasters' returns, before so much time has elapsed as would render it doubtful who prepared the same.

The senior of each separate division being made responsible for the due performance of all its duties, the bills are now regularly and accurately entered, and every mis-charged letter-bill, as well as mis-sent letter, posted up each Monday, in the Public Office. This duty, as well as the rest, therefore, is no longer subject to such errors.

The select letter-carriers, employed in the morning to sort letters for the town delivery, are employed, in the evening, in sorting the newspapers, which affords the senior officers leisure to attend to the conduct of their assistants, and to superintend the whole business of their several divisions for which they are made responsible. Effectual checks are prepared for ascertaining the particular officer, who

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fully employed about the newspapers, that they could pay no attention to the inaccuracies of their assistants, which were too much considered as things of course, and unavoidable.

The amount of letter-bills inwards, paid and unpaid, used to be entered by three of the senior clerks, who were allowed five guineas each per annum for the same. The extra allowance marks that it was considered to be an extra duty, and to be performed after the ordinary duties were finished; instead of which it was constantly done whilst the morning letters were preparing for delivery; and, of course, the officers employed about it, might as well not have been there at all, for any benefit of dispatch their services afforded.

Letters, from all parts of the kingdom, containing money, or having money under seal, were continually missing, and no means whatever were tried for preventing the evil.

There was no certain method established, by which it could be ascertained, whether all the letter bags arrived, that ought to come in on any particular day. A book, indeed, was kept, which was intended to answer such purpose; but the manner in which it was kept, entirely defeated the end, and served merely to shew the mistakes of the office, without affording any proof of their being rectified, or

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who is accountable for every mis-sent letter dispatched from the office. The numbers chargeable to each are written against his name, and fixed up every week in the office; and, though these regulations have not yet been so matured as to produce all the good effects they are capable of, they have already reduced the number of mis-sent letters to less than half what they were before.

This duty is now performed by the check-book-keeper, and his assistant, and occupies four or five hours of the day that does not at all interfere with his other employments, nor occasion any additional expence for that particular service. Considerable advantage is also gained in expediting the morning business, by confining the clerks, who used to enter the bills, to the preparing the letters for delivery.

A check is established, by which it is scarcely possible for a money-letter, addressed to London, to be withheld by any one of the many persons through whose hands it must pass, from the time of its being put into the country office, to that of its delivery by the letter-carriers; not one instance of a lost money-letter, to London, having occurred since this regulation was adopted; whereas, formerly, frequent complaints were preferred every week. Further checks are intended to be applied, to guard the correspondence against other frauds.

A regular entry is made, and bags, as they arrive, so accurately marked off, that it can be known, at any time, what bags are missing, how long they have been due, and what days such, as did not come in course, arrived at the office.

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shewing whether bags, which did not arrive in course, ever came afterwards or not.

A very considerable expence was incurred, under the head of extra duty, performed by the people in the inland office, much of which was occasioned by granting extra pay to those who attended in the place of others, who ought to, but did not attend. There have been instances of nine, ten, and eleven absent officers, who should have been on duty, and who received their pay the same as if they had been there, but for whom others attended, and were paid extra.

The bagman, or person appointed to furnish new bags, and to mend the old ones, was at liberty to charge as many new bags, or for repairing as many old ones, as he thought proper, there being no check whatever set on him.

The want of method in entering accounts, respecting the riding work, and other articles relative to the Postmaster's claims and allowances, occasioned great perplexity in them, frequent delays and disputes, and subjected the revenue to continual injury. Upon examination, the books presented several instances of payment being continued, for performance of duty, for years after that duty had been transferred, and equal pay allowed to another.

The mails were unprotected, and frequently robbed. The expences of prosecution, &c. have exceeded 4000*l.* per annum.

The inland office was so much too small, that the clerks were continually in each others way; notwithstanding which, the window-man, or clerk, of the paid-letter office, had no other place to transact his business, but a seat in the inland office, at one of the windows

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The expence, or extra duty, is entirely disallowed; and, if one officer attend for another, it is either as his voluntary substitute, or he is paid by the person for whom he acts.

Proper persons are appointed to examine all the bags, as they come in; to keep those that are in good condition separate from such as want mending; to make a regular entry of the number, and to grant permits for all new bags, in the place of such as can be used no longer.

By confining the attention of an able accomptant to the preparing new books, and establishing a clear method of keeping regular entries of every thing relating to Deputy Postmasters allowances, and by regularly checking them every quarter, previous to the making up each Postmaster's account, past errors are, as far as possible, corrected, and the revenue guarded against a repetition of them in future.

All the mails, conveyed upon the new plan, are protected by a guard, who is provided with a blunderbuss, a brace of pistols, and proper ammunition for the use of the same. Each guard is sworn to his duty, and finds two responsible bondsmen, as sureties, for his good behaviour.

The office, though still very confined and inconvenient, has been enlarged, by taking in part of the back yard, as far as the extent of that ground would admit; and a paid-letter office is erected, in the fore court, where the business thereof is carried on, without any fort

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which opened to the Paved Court, where it was possible to practise fraud and collusion, in various ways, if he were so inclined, and could not be free from continual interruption in his business.

The clerks of the paid-letter office, commonly called window-men, who take postage for letters, return over-charges, &c. &c. should be of the best character for integrity, in a place of such trust, as well as professional ability, having continual enquiries to answer relative to every department of the office. But, though there was so great an opening for fraud and collusion, character or ability were, in general, by no means adequately considered in this department.

The letter-carriers, and others, employed to do messengers duty, used to charge, at the end of every quarter, for as many attendances as they pleased, as no check was employed against such an overcharge.

Thus has Mr. Palmer, to the very great and acknowledged advantage of the whole kingdom, given accelerated expedition, perfect security, an assured punctuality, and an increased revenue, to the Administration of the General Post Office.

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fort of interruption, and free from the inducements to fraud, which the former situation of the window-man afforded.

It is hoped that proper officers fill this situation; yet, for better security, such checks are established as must, in a great measure, prevent any fraud on the revenue, even if the parties were inclined to practise it.

A book is now kept, in which such persons enter their names, when they are employed. This is examined and signed every day, and checks their bills at the end of the quarter.

ALPHABETICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL

I N D E X:

C O M P R E H E N D I N G

A succinēt View of whatever is most remarkable in the commercial History of Europe, but more particularly of the British Empire, from the Year 1762, (the Period at which Mr. ANDERSON finished his History) down to the Year 1789 inclusive.

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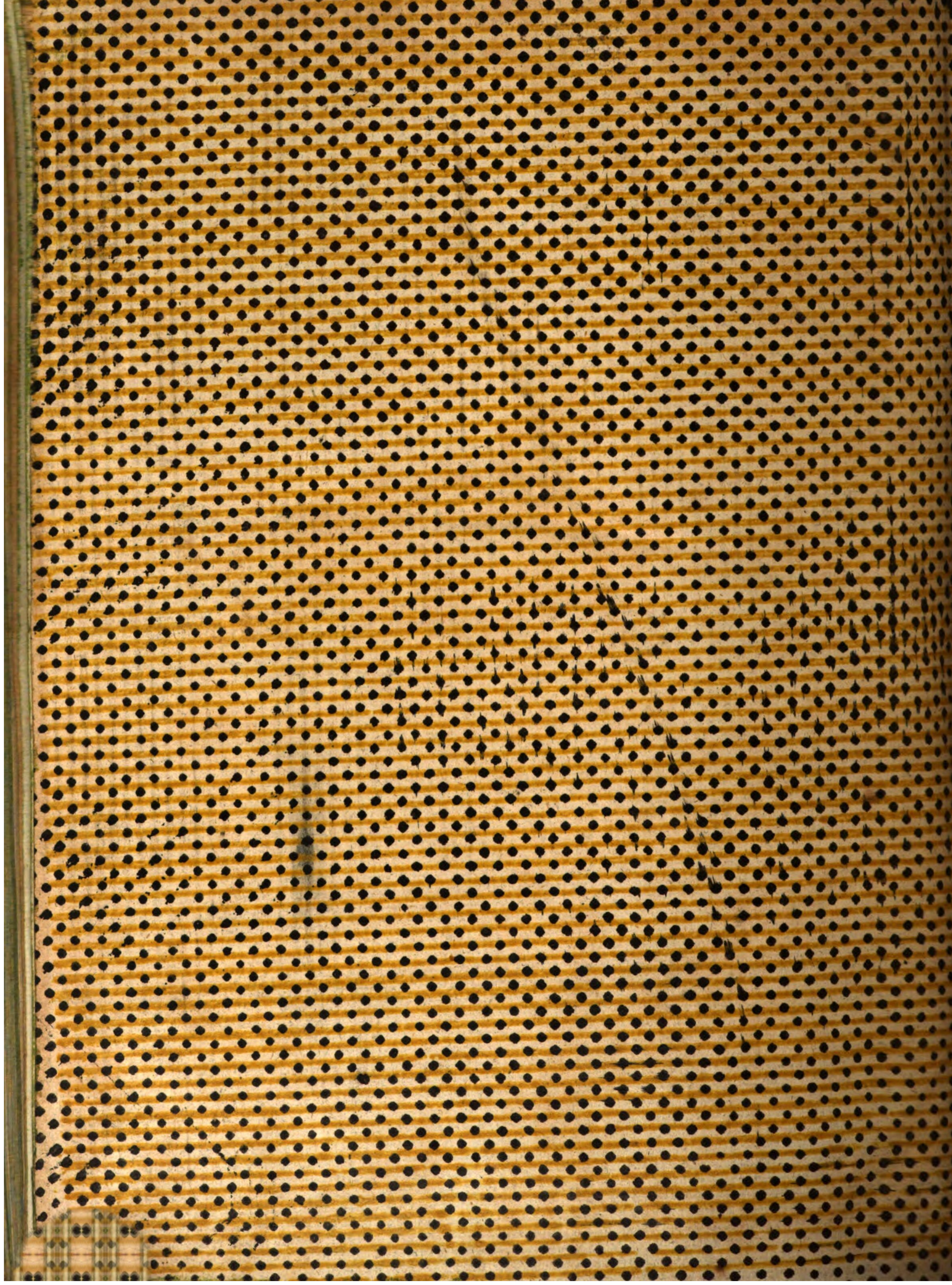
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Yarn,—(See *Linen, Cotton, &c.*)

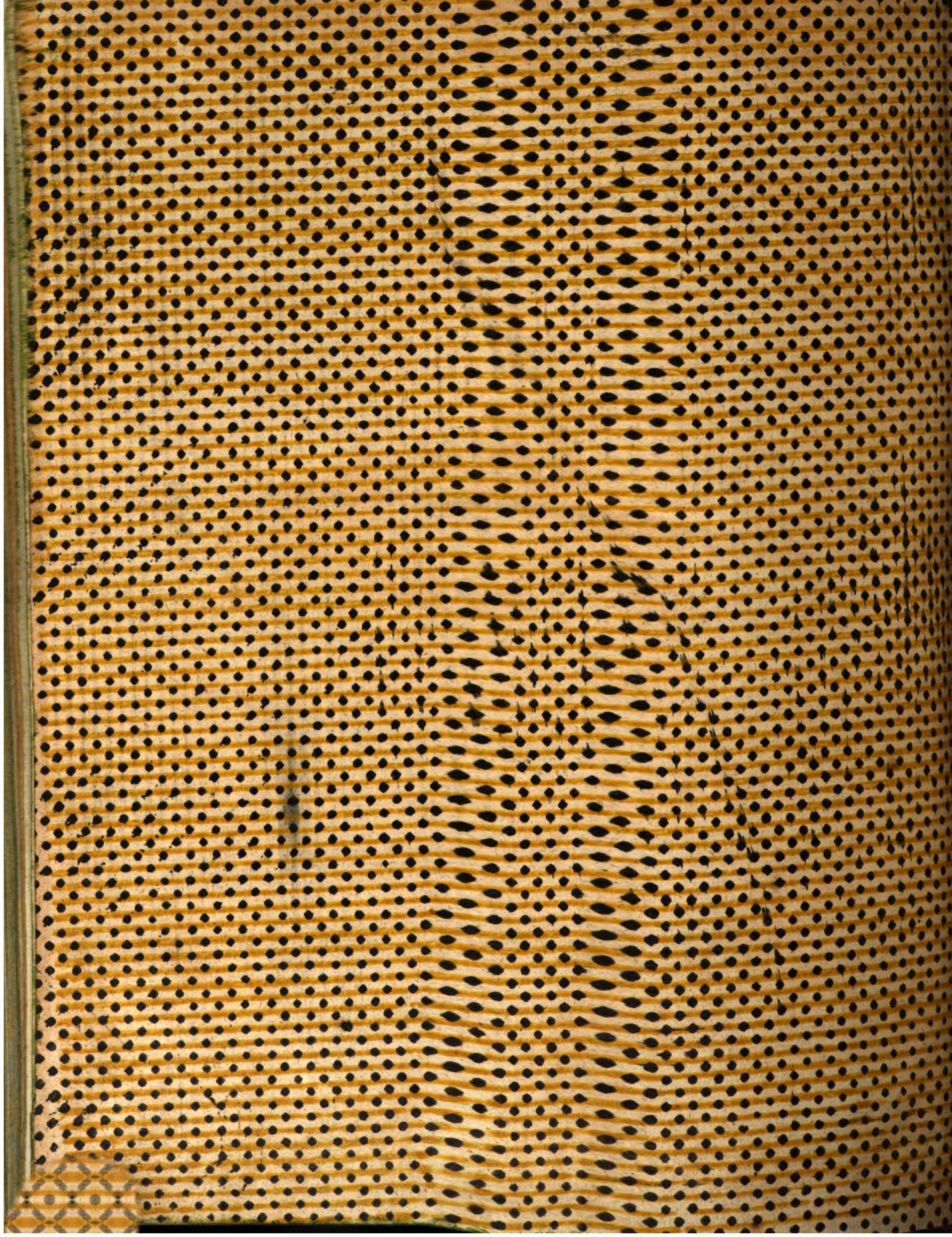
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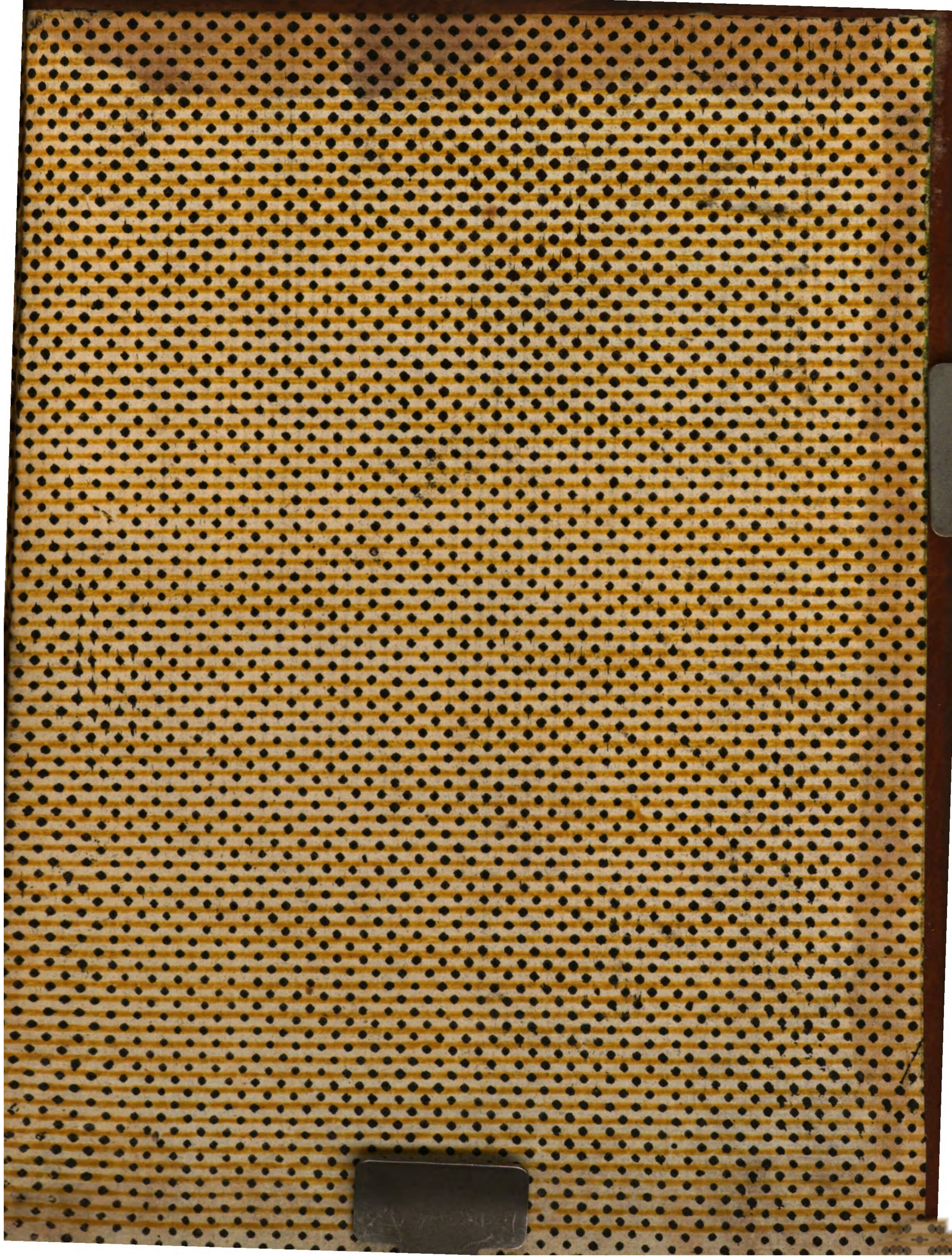
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Anderson, Adam

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